

1908.

DARLING DOWNS, QUEENSLAND.

By George Essex Evans [1908]



A Typical Dairy Herd, Talgai West.

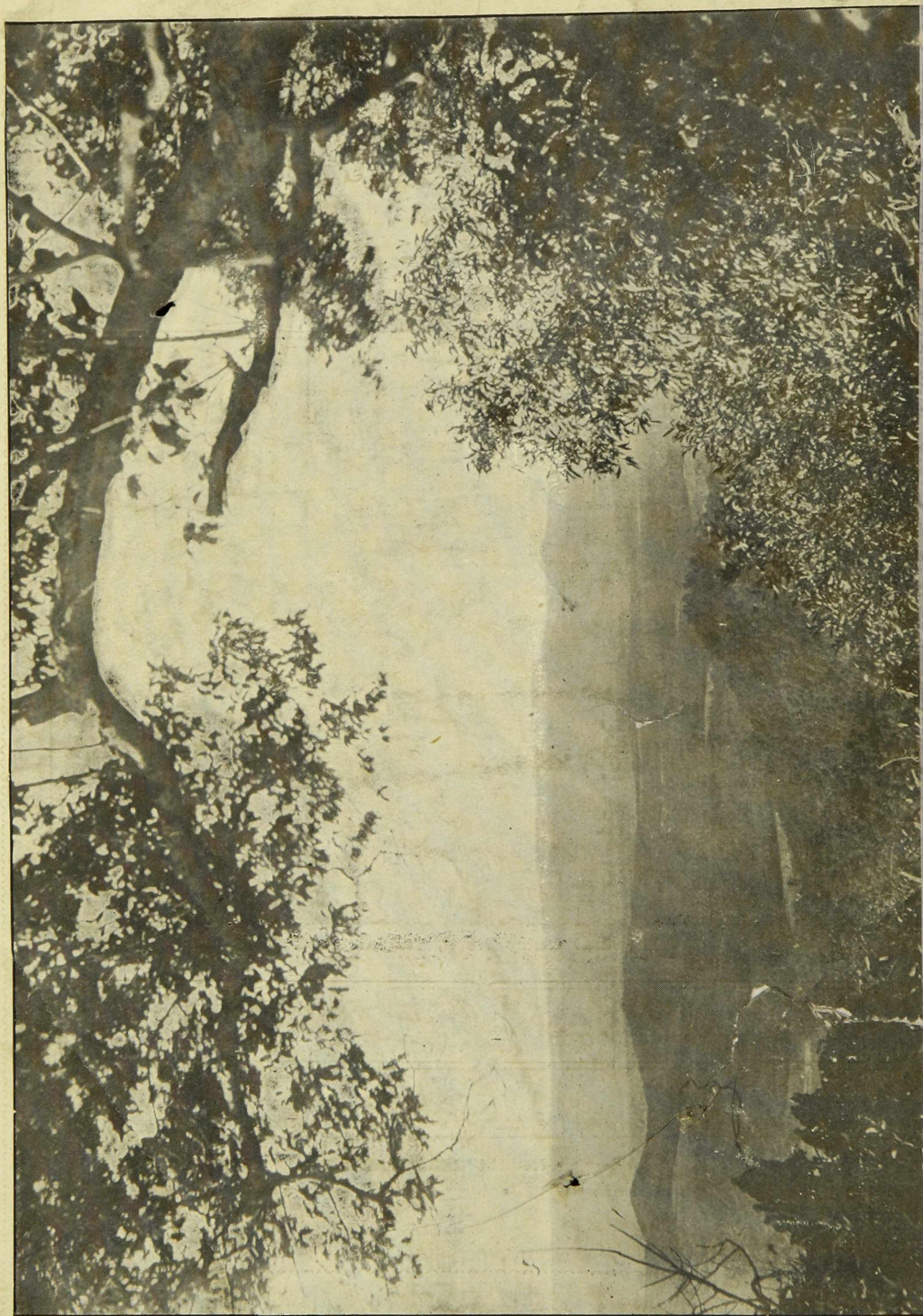
THE GARDEN OF AUSTRALIA.

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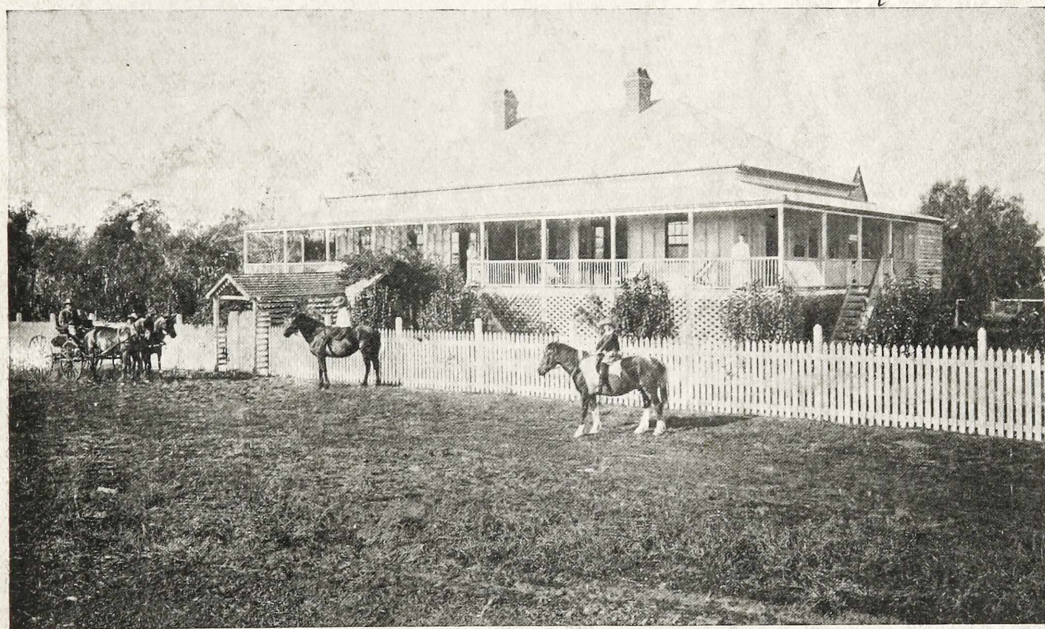
DARLING DOWNS, QUEENSLAND.



THE GARDEN OF AUSTRALIA.



By Geo. Essex Evans
(1908)



A Typical Homestead, Darling Downs.

The District famous for Dairying, Stock-raising, and Agriculture.



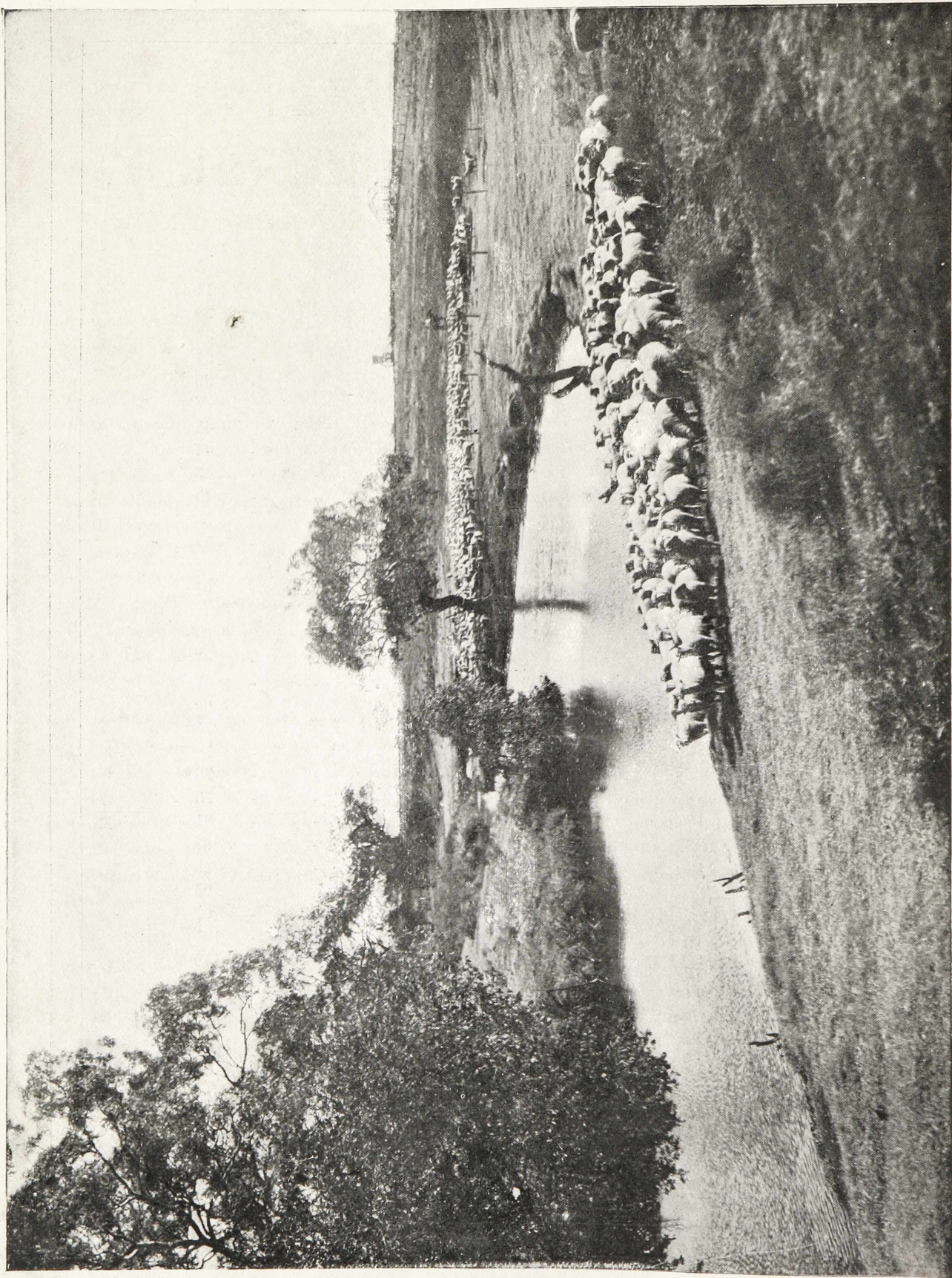
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BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.



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Page 60: As title of picture for "Gowrie," read "Harrow."



SHROPSHIRE SHEEP AT DEVON PARK, THE PROPERTY OF J. TYSON-DONELEY, ESQ.



DARLING DOWNS,



THE GARDEN OF AUSTRALIA.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Darling Downs District, which Allan Cunningham, its discoverer, in 1827, had named after Governor Darling, of New South Wales, and which enthusiastic travellers have rechristened the "Garden of Australia," consists of a volcanic plateau rising some 1,400 feet to 2,000 feet above sea-level, and situated about 100 miles from the eastern coast line. To north and east the Bunya Mountains and Great Dividing Range, and to the south the broken mountain regions on the New South Wales border, encompass it with ramparts of purple. On its unenclosed side the ground falls away gradually to the western plains. The Condamine, rising in the Killarney Ranges and running north-west, sweeps diagonally through it, fed by scores of tributary creeks, and drains the whole basin for more than a hundred miles before it leaves the Downs country with a westerly curve below Chinchilla. The area of this beautiful tableland is computed to be slightly over 4,000,000 acres of rich black, red, and chocolate soil, ranging from 4 feet to 60 feet, and in some localities to an even greater depth. The proportion unsuitable for cultivation is very slight, whilst some of the rich valley lands are unequalled in Australia. Indeed, it would be difficult to name any other district between Cape York and Wilson's Promontory which contains within its borders such a vast area of arable land.

It is to its fine climate and rich soil that the Darling Downs owes its pre-eminence. The mild temperature enables all crops, vegetables, and fruits of semi-tropical and temperate climes to be grown, whilst the soil, being constituted of decomposed basalt, decayed vegetable matter, and drift, cannot be surpassed for agricultural purposes. All the western portions of the ranges forming the northern and eastern boundaries of this remarkable plateau are basaltic, and at least three-fourths of the land which has been cultivated with any success is decomposed basalt. Of the same character are the rocks that form the bold escarpments of the mountains. This great fertile basaltic tract stretches along the western slope of the Great Dividing Range, extending from Jimbour Station south-east to Warwick, a distance of 100 miles, with an average breadth of 25 miles.

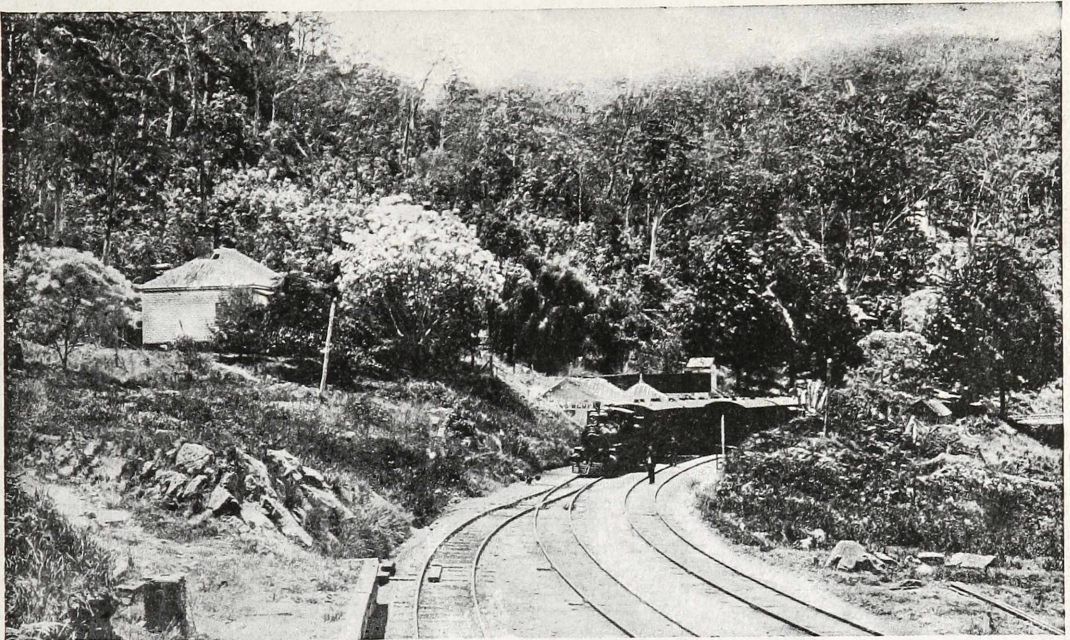
It has been scientifically stated that the basalt, the outbursts of which appear to have occurred after the physical features of the country had nearly acquired their present form, by its decomposition makes a rich black soil well adapted to the growth of maize, wheat, and lucerne. Thus the land owes its fertility to the lime, soda, and potash it contains being gradually set free, whilst the silica and albumina are in a state of very fine division, conditions especially favourable to vegetation, particularly of that class which includes cereals and useful grasses.

The country, consisting chiefly of immense open plains and undulating downs, is nevertheless diversified by gently sloping ridges timbered with apple-tree and gum-topped box, rich alluvial valleys and apple-tree flats, stretches of open forest and belts of scrub. The scrub lands on some of the mountain slopes are also exceedingly rich, the deep red and chocolate soil frequently reaching to the summits. On the crests and shoulders of the Main Range, stringybark, blackbutt, turpentine, bloodwood, hoop and bunya pine are to be found in large quantities, whilst the scrubs are composed



VIEW OF MAIN RANGE AT TOOWOOMBA, SHOWING MR. ESSEX EVANS' HOUSE TO THE LEFT.

of brigalow, ti-tree, myall, sandalwood, wild apple, fig, honeysuckle, interspersed with clumps of pine, cedar, beech, ironbark, and other timbers. This expansive tract of country, nearly equal in extent to the American States of Illinois and Missouri, which it much resembles, is well watered throughout by numerous mountain streams and running creeks, but water can also be obtained by sinking at depths varying from 15 feet to 150 feet. The climate is temperate, resembling the Riviera. The summer lasts six months, but the nights are cool and bracing. The mean annual temperature is 61 degrees. There is no winter in the European sense, but during June, July, and August there are ground frosts and searching westerly winds. From November to December is the period of thunderstorms, whilst from January to the end of March is generally the wet season. There

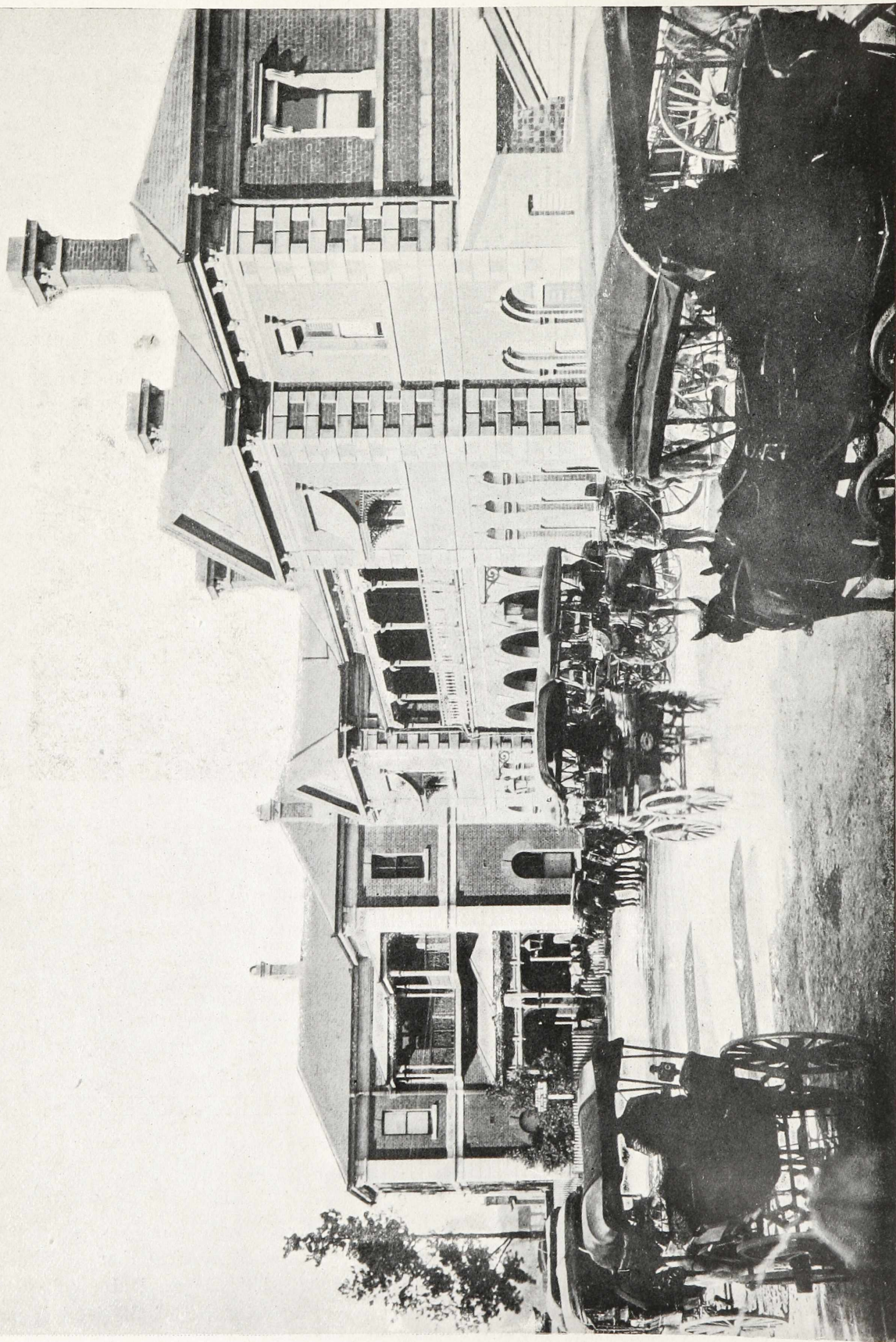


SPRING BLUFF.

have been only two falls of snow in the last thirty years. The rainfall average is about 30 inches, the most favoured localities being along the rain belt within a radius of 20 miles of the Main Range. The district is chiefly supported by the pastoral, dairying, and agricultural industries, although there is a considerable trade in timber and some mining.

The soil and climate of the Downs are eminently adapted for the production of good malting barley, and there is no part of the world more suitable for dairying and pig-raising than Southern Queensland. Pigs can be bred here throughout the year, whereas in Canada and America the long winters militate against this. Another point in connection with these industries and that of wheat production is the fact that thousands of tons of lucerne hay can be grown, which, chaffed with wheaten straw, makes excellent winter feed for dairy stock. All classes of saccharines, such as sorghums, millets, &c., grow readily and are splendid feed for dairy cattle, as is also malt refuse, which can be used both for pig-fattening and dairy fodder.

It must also be borne in mind that the Downs, magnificent country as it is, has, like other places, its darker side: times when the drought-spell hangs over the country for months together, when crops fail and stock suffer; and again, but this more rarely, when floods creep over the low-lying country around the Condamine and its tributary creeks. Against these difficulties it can be stated that, a fortnight after a good rainfall, the country that was parched and bare is waving with a luxuriance of grass and wild flowers. The recuperative power of the land is marvellous,



RAILWAY STATION, TOOWOOMBA.

and has to be seen to be believed. Floods, moreover, are not of frequent occurrence, and they often do as much good as harm. But the great unanswerable argument in its favour is the extraordinary development of the district itself and the expansion of its industries. Few once settled here leave; they are too busy obtaining fresh land for their children. In the face of all difficulties the development goes on like a river, steadily increasing in volume. It is doubtful if there is any district in Queensland where there are so many small farms free from debt. Moreover, here men can work out of doors in comfort all the year round, and are spared the long dreary winters such as obtain in Canada and Alaska. Men coming out to settle in Queensland must come steeled for a fight with Nature. They will want courage, a level head, and some small capital. If they possess these, there

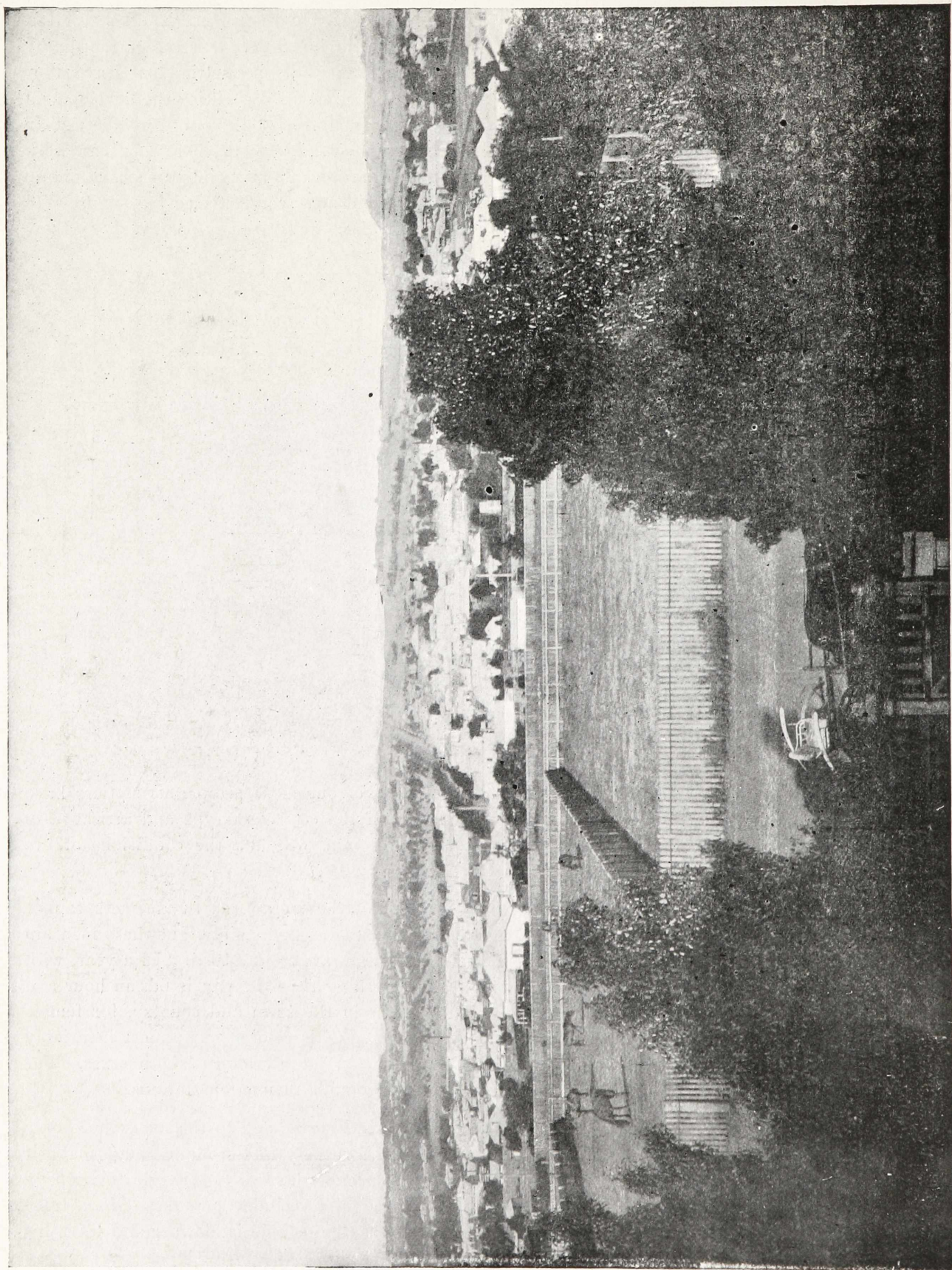


WATERFALL, SPRING BLUFF.

is nothing to prevent them acquiring a competency. Many of our most prosperous settlers have only been endowed with the two former necessities. Men of the city clerk type and artisans are not wanted, but anyone accustomed to outdoor work in England will find the conditions of life in Queensland far from hard.

More good agricultural labourers are badly wanted on the Downs, as the farmers cannot obtain the necessary supply of labour. Some years ago there was a good supply, but these men are now well-to-do farmers with homesteads of their own. The wages are from £40 to £52 a year, with board. Specially skilled labour can command more. At threshing time the pay is 6d. an hour and rations, or 5s. to 6s. a day. There is a great demand, both in the town and country, for female domestic servants. The rate of wages is 8s. to 15s. per week. Girls coming out almost invariably marry and have homes of their own. There is plenty of room for servants of both sexes. For married couples the rate is from £52 to £80 per annum with double rations on stations.

The Darling Downs offers advantages both to the man of means and to the man whose only capital is his willing hands. Its fine climate and the splendid scenery of the Main Range make it an ideal tourist resort. For the half-pay retired officer or official who has to struggle to keep up appearances on a small income in the old land, it should become a veritable paradise. Here, freed from the shackles of a strained convention, he could become a comfortable landowner and leave his family a competence such as would be impossible in Great Britain.



VIEW OF TOOWOOMBA, LOOKING EAST TOWARDS RANGE.

TOOWOOMBA.

TOOWOOMBA, the Simla of Southern Queensland, is the capital of the great plateau of the Darling Downs. It is situated on the summit of the Great Dividing Range, at an elevation of 1,921 feet above the level of the sea. It is distant 101 miles by railway from Brisbane. The Sydney express mail train passes each way through Toowoomba daily; and trains leave daily for Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Ipswich, Warwick, Dalby, Roma, Mitchell, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Pittsworth, Crow's Nest, Cabarlah, Oakey, and Jondaryan. Through trains from Toowoomba to Cunnamulla, in the far West, leave every Tuesday and Friday, calling at all intermediate stations. There is an excellent and well-provided refreshment-room at the Toowoomba station.

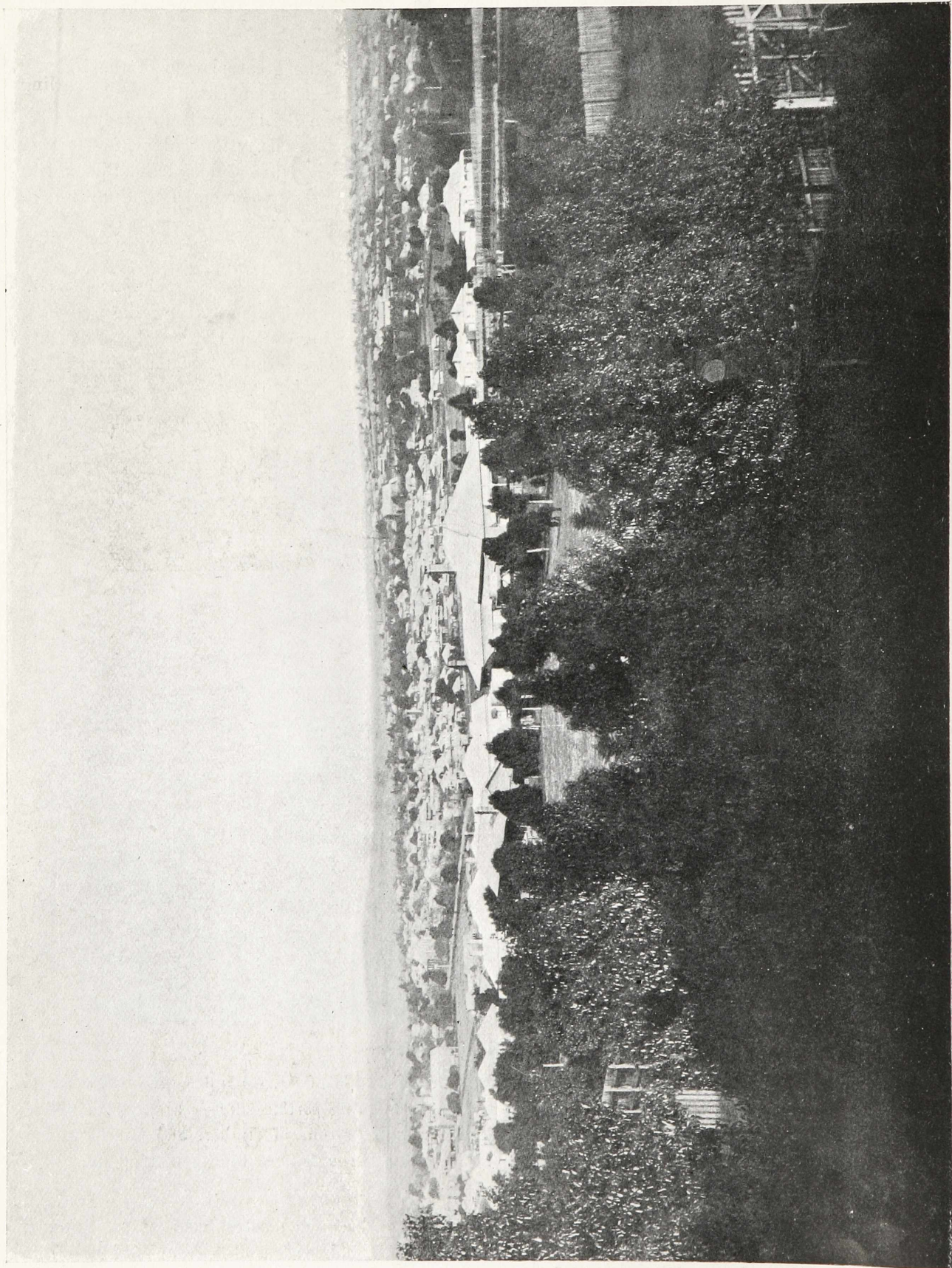
It is the opinion of many thoughtful men in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand that before another thirty years Toowoomba will become the principal inland city of the Commonwealth, having in its immediate vicinity land capable of supporting millions of people, and being the central depôt of railway lines tapping the north-eastern, south-western, and western districts for



TOWN HALL, TOOWOOMBA.

over 500 miles. The wool, hides, and fat stock from thousands of square miles of the far West; the agricultural produce of hundreds of closely populated farming settlements—maize, chaff, wheat, lucerne, cream, butter, eggs, poultry, wine, fruit; thousands of tons of timber, and an increasing passenger traffic from many centres, have to come or pass through here to the metropolis. It is Chicago in miniature.

The town, which is regarded by the commercial world as the most solvent in the State of Queensland, is situated on the edge of the great basaltic tableland, with a vast expanse of mountain



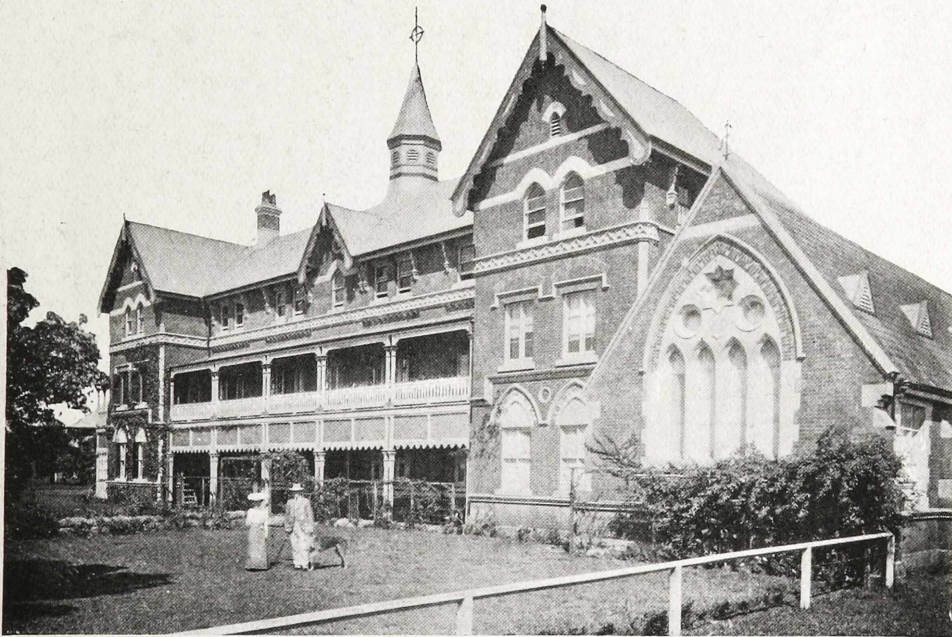
TOOWOOMBA, LOOKING SOUTH-EAST.

summits to the east and the immense plains of the Darling Downs to the west. The soil is a deep red volcanic, of great richness, and contrasts charmingly with the verdant green of the surrounding



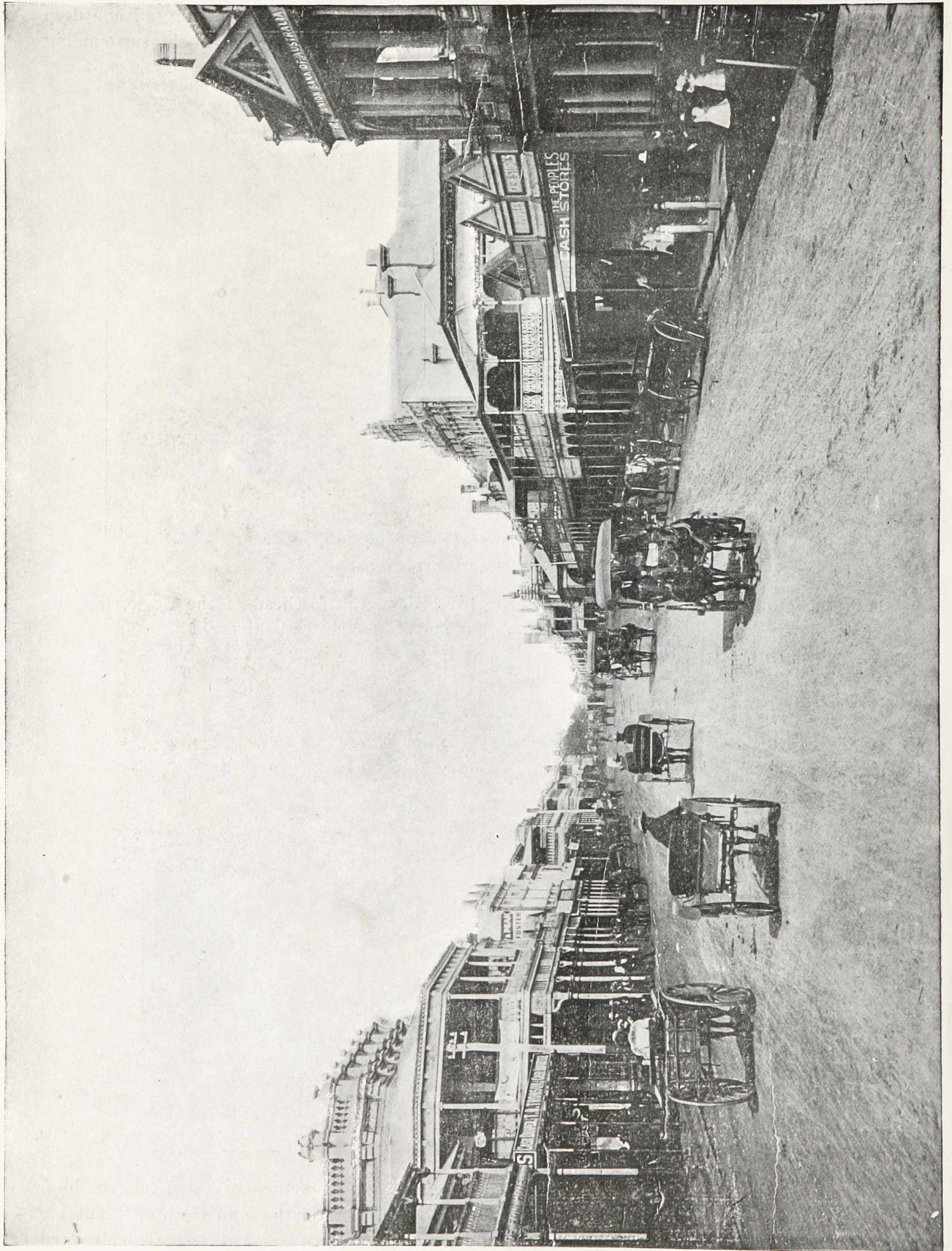
THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, TOOWOOMBA.

grass lands. Many beautiful villa residences are perched on the forehead of the range, but the town proper spreads itself along a low gradual valley and up the slopes to the west.



GRAMMAR SCHOOL, TOOWOOMBA.

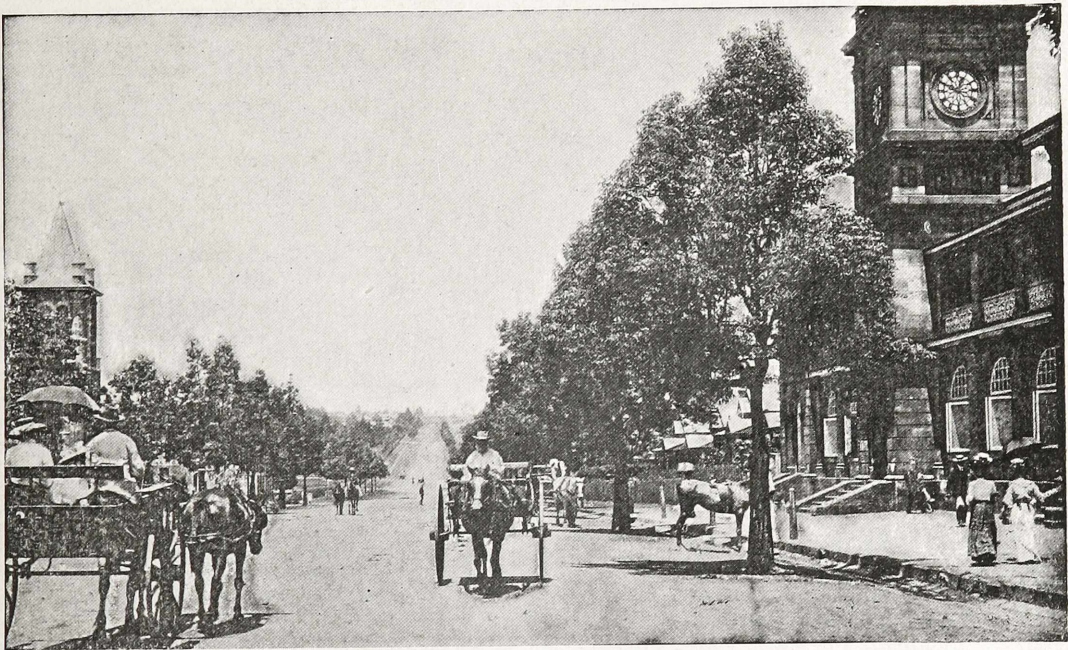
Whichever way you look, you are met by a series of beautiful pictures. To the east the bluff forelands of the range rise sharply against the sky, giving the spectator the impression of illimitable space. To the south stretch the lovely woodlands and variegated squares of intensely cultivated



RUTHVEN STREET, TOOWOOMBA.

land that form the Middle Ridge. To the north the lines of red road and smooth emerald field run intermingled with wild mountain scenery. To the west extend the plains, dotted with white homesteads. In the town itself, too, are pictures of streets shadowed in full-foliaged trees, of handsome residences lost in embowering greenery, of fine churches, and large public buildings rising from commanding sites, of extensive parks, and waters fringed with the green trailing curtains of the willow.

Toowoomba was first proclaimed a municipality on the 24th November, 1860, and a city on the 20th October, 1904. Its first mayor was the late Hon. W. H. Groom, M.P. This gentleman continuously represented the constituency, first in the State and subsequently in the Federal Parliament for thirty-nine years. This forms an Australasian record. He may be termed the father of Toowoomba. Its present prosperity is largely due to his consistent advocacy of close settlement. His son, the Hon. L. E. Groom, M.P., Attorney-General in the Commonwealth Ministry, now represents the Darling Downs in the Federal Parliament. Drayton and Toowoomba State electorate,



MARGARET STREET, TOOWOOMBA, SHOWING POST OFFICE.

which had an electoral roll of 243 voters in 1859, now has a roll of 7,500 electors, and returns two members. Messrs. V. C. Redwood and T. R. Roberts, MM.L.A., now represent the city. The area within the city is 2,733 acres, or a little over $4\frac{1}{4}$ square miles, and is divided into three wards. The City Council consists of nine aldermen, three for each ward, one of whom is annually chosen as mayor. One alderman retires from each ward annually, but may be re-elected. The number of ratepayers on the roll for 1906 was as follows:—South Ward, 576; East Ward, 693; West Ward, 487. The estimated population is over 10,000, and the estimated number of dwellings over 2,000. The assessed capital value of the unimproved land is £665,044. The amount of the annual rate levied is $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £1 of capital value. The receipts are about £18,000, and the expenditure something over £17,000. The total indebtedness to debenture-holders at the end of 1906 was £52,000, and a further sum of £34,000 is authorised to be borrowed by debentures for construction of extension to waterworks.



RUTHVEN STREET IN AUSTRAL WEEK.

Toowoomba is supplied with water pumped from wells to the amount of 270,000 gallons per diem, and laid on to most of the streets. A scheme for the erection of an additional reservoir on the Middle Ridge, the highest point in Toowoomba, has been approved by the council, and tenders have now been let for this work. The sanitary system in use in Toowoomba is that of burning all noxious matter in an up-to-date destructor. Since the erection of these works, typhoid fever has been reduced to a minimum. The present Mayor is Mr. T. S. Burstow, who has now twice held the office. Town Clerk, Mr. F. J. Paterson. The population of Drayton and Toowoomba, according to the last census of 1901, was 14,061, and that of the surrounding district may be computed at 20,000, making a total of about 35,000.

Toowoomba has no lack of public buildings and institutions. The present municipal offices were erected in 1901 at a cost (including furniture) of £11,000. The accommodation is generous, and includes a theatre and one of the best school of arts reading-rooms in the State. The Technical College also occupies a portion of the building. The public hospital, situated on the western slope commanding the city, was originally built at a cost of £10,000. Since then another wing, costing

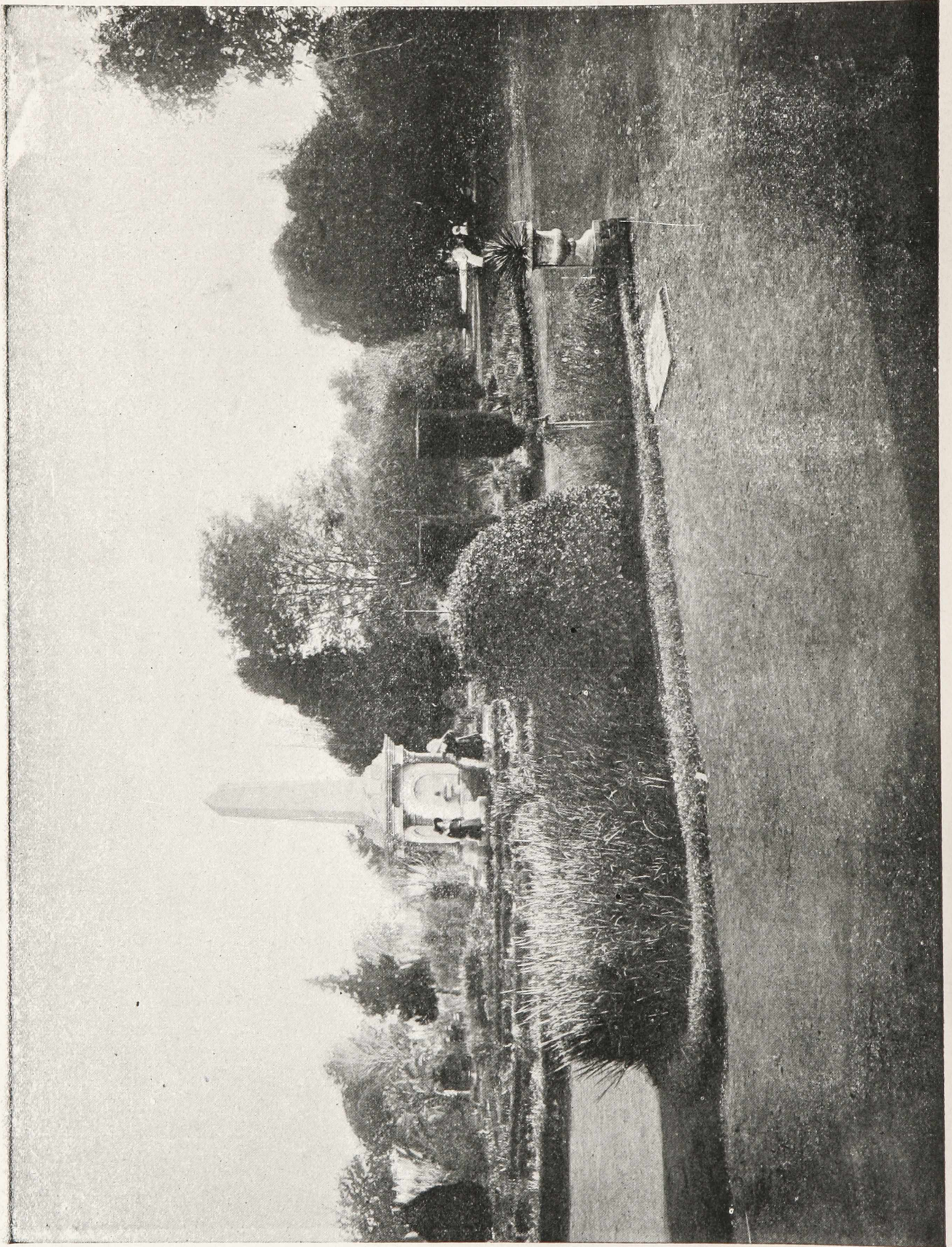


NEIL STREET, TOOWOOMBA.

£2,300, has been added; and more recently a new up-to-date operating theatre, the contract price for which was £1,000. The hospital has accommodation for seventy-five patients. The annual admissions are about 1,000. The grounds are beautifully laid out, and the fine collection of ornamental trees gives the institution a bright and cheerful appearance.

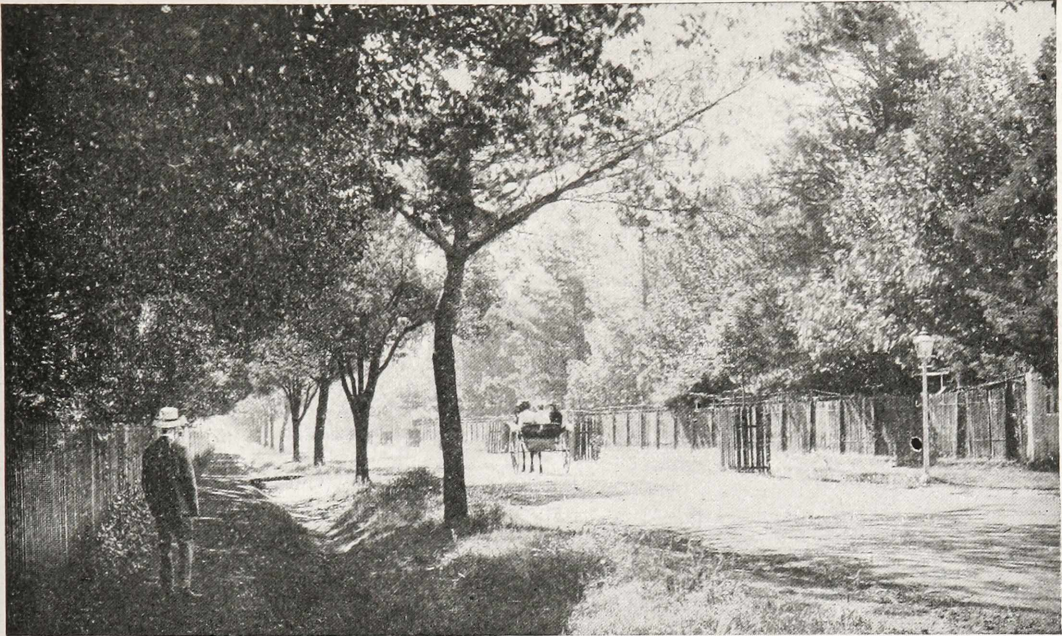
The public institutions of Toowoomba are the Post Office, Telegraph Office, Lands Office, Railway Offices, Works Office, Stock Department, District Registrar's Office, and Court House. The ground floor of the two-story Government block in Margaret street is occupied by the Public Lands, Clerk of Petty Sessions, and Inspector of Police. Above are the Supreme, District, and Police Courts, Police Magistrate's Office, and Offices of the Inspector of Works, Inspector of Stock, and Inspector of Shops and Factories.

At Willowburn, just outside the suburbs, a splendid block of buildings has been erected by the Government at the cost of £100,000 as a Hospital for the Insane. This now accommodates



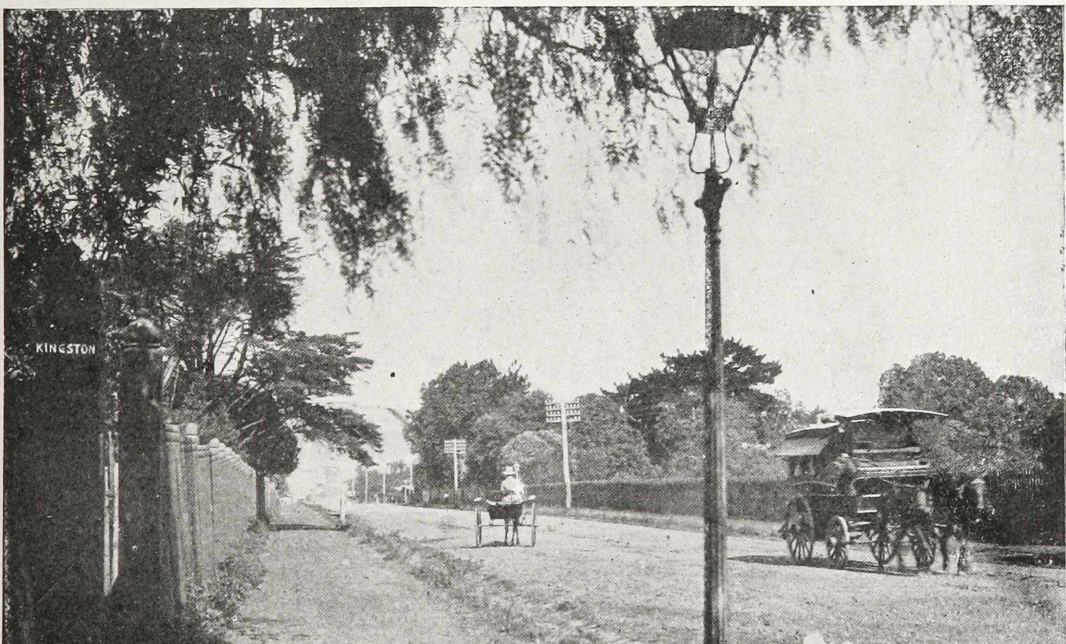
THE BOTANIC GARDENS, TOOWOOMBA.

700 patients. The asylum grounds comprise 260 acres, and are picturesquely situated. A kitchen and steam laundry, on modern principles, is attached to the institution. This

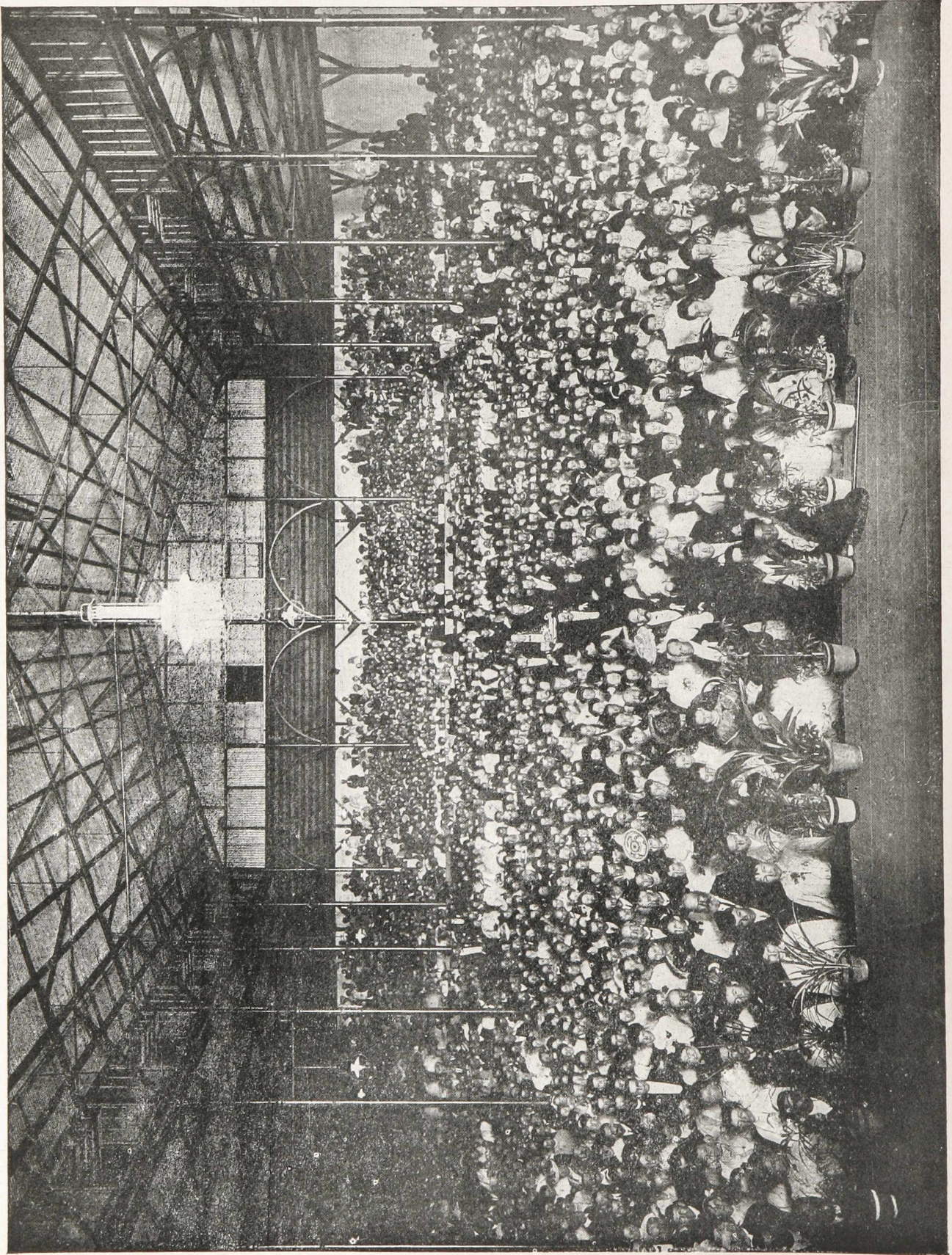


CAMPBELL STREET, TOOWOOMBA.

addition cost £7,000. The Ladies' Benevolent Society has also erected a home for the aged and infirm, which, under the name of the "Brodrigg Home," is doing useful work. There is also an excellent Fire Brigade. It is controlled by a board, consisting of representatives of the Government, the City Council, and the fire insurance companies. Each of the governing authorities contributes an equal amount to its maintenance. An Ambulance Brigade was formed in 1902, and has proved a most efficient body.



RUSSELL STREET, TOOWOOMBA.



AN AUSTRAL AUDIENCE OF 8,000.



RUTHVEN STREET IN FESTIVAL TIME.

The two most flourishing public societies in Toowoomba are the Royal Agricultural Society, formed in 1859, to encourage stock-raising and husbandry; and the Austral Association, founded in 1903 by Mr. Essex Evans and a few enthusiasts, to forward the cause of Art, Literature, Music,



BANDS MARCHING.

and Science. The one is the complement of the other. The annual shows of the Royal are known all over Australia, and the finest specimens of stock and produce that the surrounding districts and the States of New South Wales and Victoria can raise are to be seen at the Annual Exhibition in

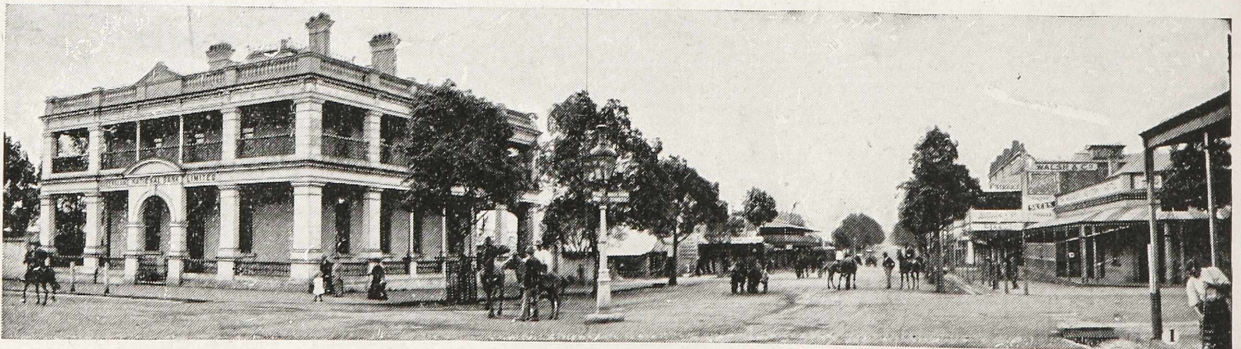
August. This show is an education in itself. It has a splendid working committee, and the name of the President, Mr. W. B. Slade, is a household word on the Downs. The entries have increased from 684 in 1891 to 2,054 in 1907.



AUSTRAL FLORAL CARNIVAL

The Austral Association holds annual competitions in the Arts in November each year. These festivals last over a week, and are attended by thousands from all parts of Queensland and other States. The society began with a small festival founded on the lines of the Welsh Eisteddfod in 1903, with a prize list of £250, but so rapidly has the institution grown that this year they are giving away over £700. In 1904 the association purchased the old gaol site from the Government and erected a huge hall containing 18,792 superficial feet, capable of seating 5,000 and at a pinch of accommodating 8,000. The foundation stone of this hall was laid in September, 1904, by Sir E. Hutton, Commandant of the Australian forces, as a memorial to the Darling Downs soldiers who fell in South Africa. On the final night of the festival, when the big choirs compete, the huge building is crowded; and in November, 1907, on the closing session, a thousand people were unable to obtain admission. The Toowoomba Liedertafel and the Philharmonic are two other musical societies that hold periodical concerts.

The commercial importance of the city may be gauged by the fact that the following banking



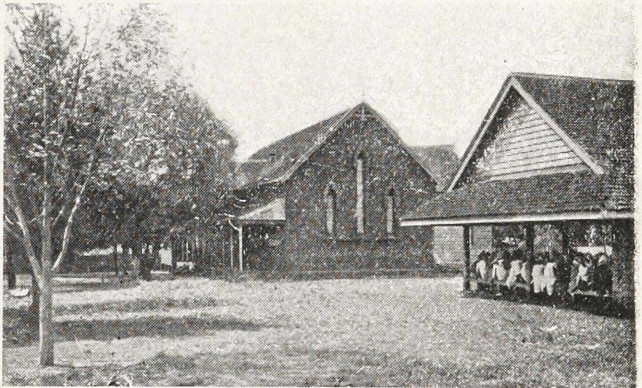
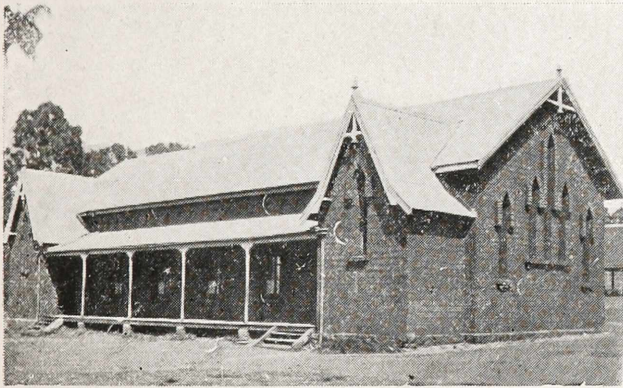
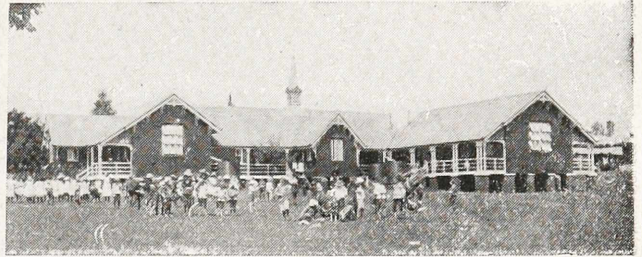
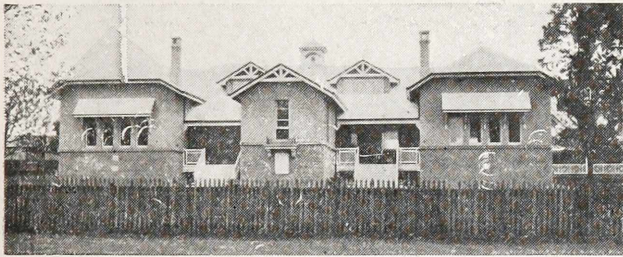
THE QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK LTD., TOOWOOMBA.

institutions have branch establishments in Toowoomba, viz.:—The Union Bank of Australia, Ltd., Bank of New South Wales, Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Ltd., Bank of Australasia, Queensland National Bank, Ltd., Royal Bank of Queensland, Ltd., and the Australian Joint Stock Bank, Ltd. There are also two building societies, viz.:—The Toowoomba Permanent Benefit Building and Investment Society, and the Darling Downs Permanent Benefit and Building Society. Both these institutions advance money for building purposes on the time-payment system, and have enabled hundreds of workmen and others to erect their own homes and become their own landlords. In 1901 the 5th Queensland Bowkett Society was started, and since then it has distributed thousands of pounds for building purposes to lucky drawers of prizes.

All the various religious denominations are well represented in the capital of the Downs, viz.:—Church of England, Roman Catholic Church, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, Lutheran, Independent German Church, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist, Church of Christ, Evangelist, and Jewish Synagogue.

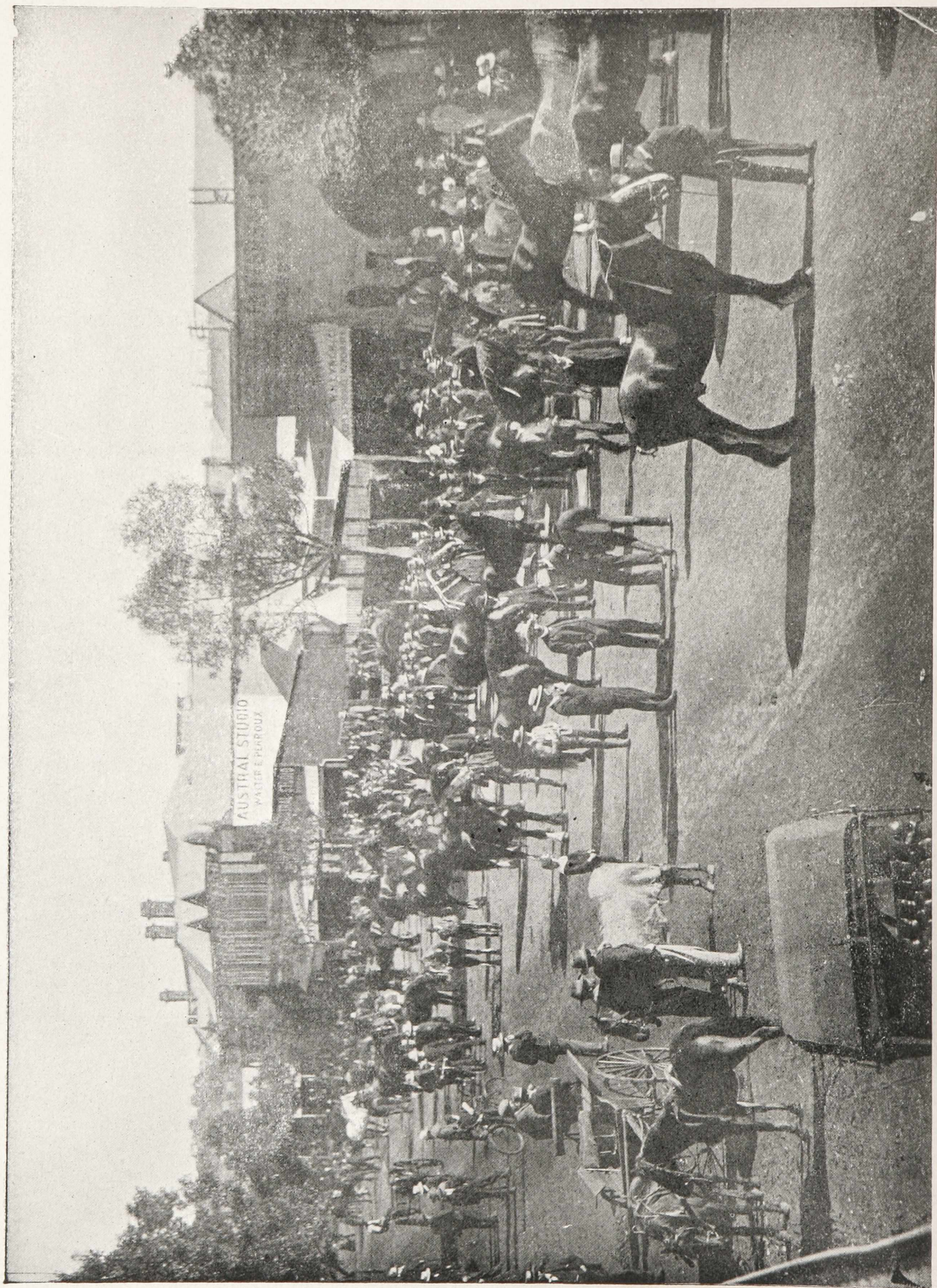
Masonry and kindred associations are well to the fore. There are four Masonic lodges, three lodges of Oddfellows, A.O. Forresters, a Rechabite Society, several Blue Ribbon Societies, and two other benefit societies. The Caledonian and Hibernians have each a society.

Education is liberally provided for. There are fifteen primary State schools in the city and district. There are many other private schools. The State Grammar School for boys, erected in 1877, at a cost of £17,000, is well patronised, and its handsome buildings form a conspicuous



STATE SCHOOLS OF TOOWOOMBA.

landmark on the eastern portion of the city. Latterly important additions have been made, as the establishment, being the chief educational centre for the Western districts, could not accommodate the increasing roll of pupils. Almost opposite the Grammar School, on an equally commanding position on the western side of the town, stands the Christian Brothers' College for boys. A Roman Catholic Convent, a fine structure built at a cost of £4,500, occupies one of the finest sites in the city to the south. Another Roman Catholic school has also been erected in the north-west portion of Toowoomba. The Technical College in the Town Hall is another flourishing institution.



PARADE OF STALLIONS PREVIOUS TO SALE OUTSIDE MESSRS. T. G. ROBINSON AND CO.'S YARDS, MARGARET STREET.

Of sporting and athletic clubs, Toowoomba has no lack, there being over thirty of these, ranging from horse-racing and polo to tennis, and from football to bowls. The Gordon Club, now in its fifteenth year, has proved a highly successful and useful institution. There are also excellent golf club links situate on the racecourse.

The city has two private clubs—the Downs Club, supported by the leading squatters, graziers, and private residents; and the Toowoomba Club, supported by the commercial community.

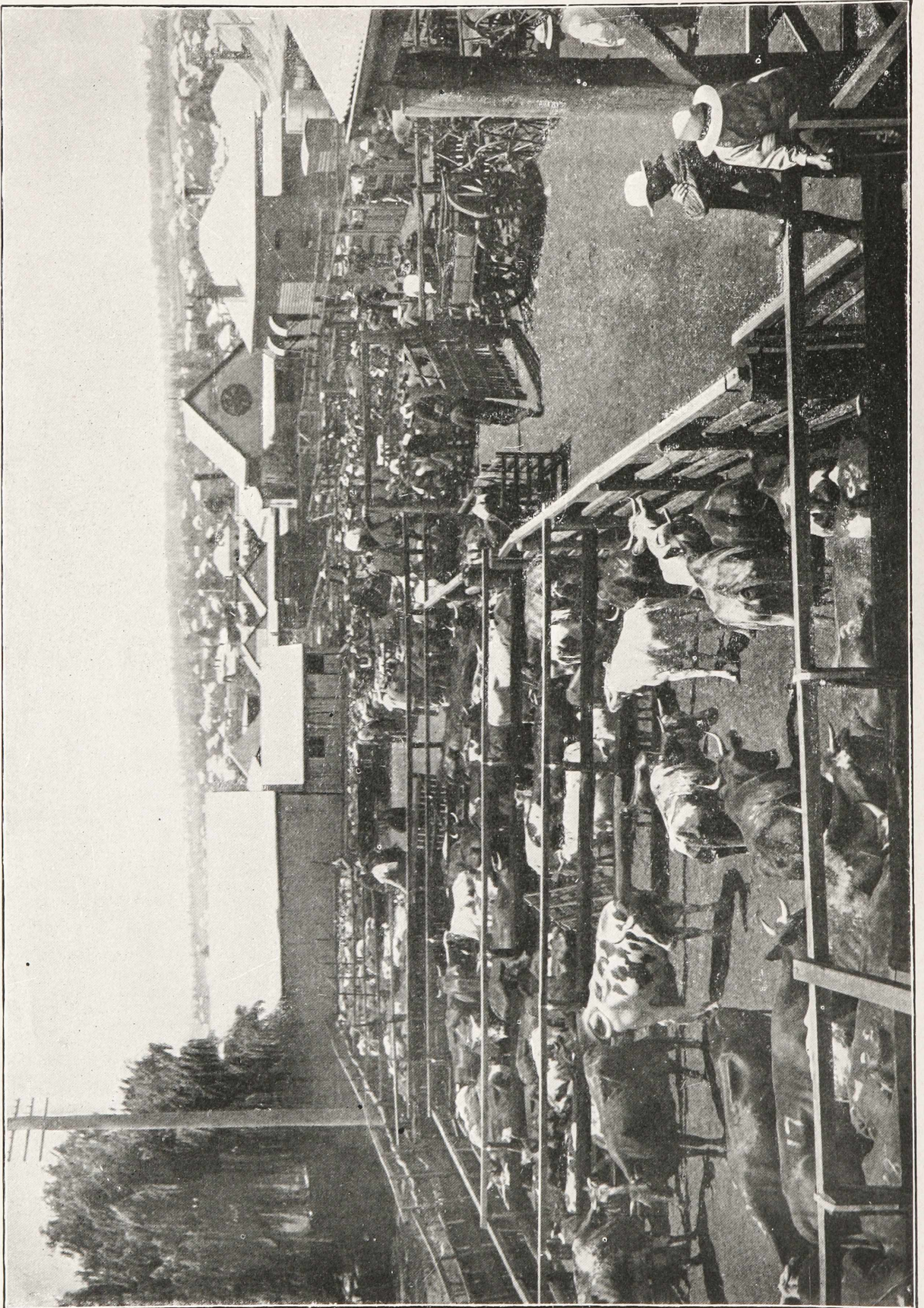
Toowoomba possesses four newspapers. The two morning dailies, *The Toowoomba Chronicle* and *The Darling Downs Gazette*, are up-to-date journals, circulating widely in the city and district. *The Citizen* and *Democrat* are published weekly.

Toowoomba, being the recognised summer resort of Queensland, is thronged with visitors in the warmer months. The State Governor, Lord Chelmsford, has his summer residence here, leasing "Gabbabar," the property of Lady Nelson, widow of the late Sir H. M. Nelson, K.C.M.G., P.C., for several years Premier of the State. The official residency has not yet been built, but 10 acres on the Main Range have been reserved as a gubernatorial site. As residence sites, for nine months out of the twelve, the eastern slopes of the Main Range are unequalled in any part of Australia. Protected from the westerly winds, the climate is perpetual spring. Frosts are unknown, and garden produce of all kinds can be grown all the year round.

Toowoomba is supplied with good swimming baths. These, erected at a cost of £1,000, are situated in Margaret street; and the water, which is unusually clear and cool, is supplied from a neighbouring spring. There is a fine park of 65 acres (Queen's Park), attached to which are the beautiful Botanical Gardens of 11 acres, on the eastern side of the city. At Picnic Point—a lovely spot on the Main Range, and one of its highest eminences—there is a recreation reserve of 32 acres. This commands one of the most magnificent mountain views in Australia. Along the road from the city trees have been planted which, in a few years, will form a picturesque avenue. From this point the eye roams over a tremendous panorama of mountain summits, stretches of more open country, and plain. From Tick Hill, another eminence on the north-east side of the city, the best general view of Toowoomba can be obtained. There is also a grand panoramic spectacle of the range from this altitude. The City Council are, moreover, trustees of large areas on the eastern slopes of the mountains, which are ideal resorts for picnic-makers.

The capital of the Downs is the pivot of great commercial and industrial activity. Its streets bustle with life, showing that the blood in the arteries of commerce is in brisk circulation. Its horse market is the largest in Australia, and has a world-wide reputation. All the Indian and Eastern horse buyers attend these sales. Annually thousands of cattle, sheep, and pigs pass through its saleyards. It is the home of the malting industry. It is a busy centre of such industries as butter-making (on a grand scale), co-operative dairying, flour and timber milling, wheat and barley growing, and brewing. The area under cultivation in the Toowoomba district in 1906 was 72,658 acres; number of sheep, 591,914; of cattle, 66,617; of horses, 14,277; of pigs, 9,821. Toowoomba possesses tanneries, foundries, cordial and steam aerated water manufactories, coach works, soap factories, fellmongeries, tinplate works, seven printing offices, steam laundry, and other establishments. It contains the only grain exchange in Queensland, where every variety of grain can be graded for market, and an up-to-date electric lighting plant, by which means all the leading shops are illuminated. There is also a gas company. Several large Brisbane commercial houses have resident agencies.

The horse industry practically dates from 1858, but in 1860 the late Mr. T. G. Robinson, of the firm of T. G. Robinson and Co., commenced holding weekly sales. The leading member of



CATTLE IN MESSRS. T. G. ROBINSON AND CO.'S YARDS, MARGARET STREET.

the firm at present is his son, Mr. W. R. Robinson, who has done more to start and encourage new industries in Toowoomba and on the Downs generally than any other citizen. Half a million of horses have passed through his hands in the last twenty-seven years. In all that relates to stock, dairying, and agriculture Mr. Robinson is an expert, and he is ever ready with advice to new-



MOB OF HORSES FOR INDIA IN MESSRS. T. G. ROBINSON AND CO.'S RECEIVING PADDOCK.

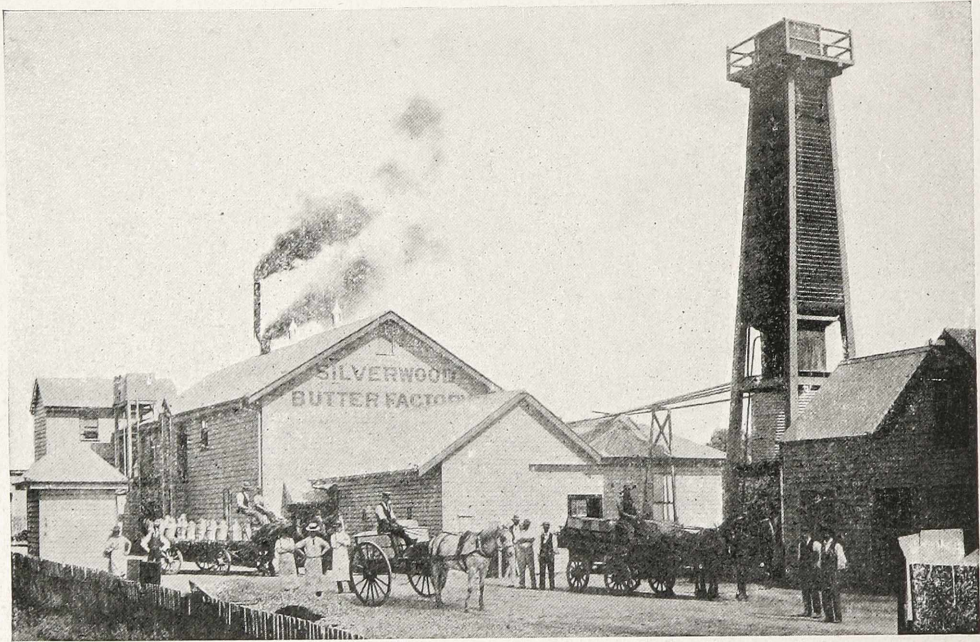
comers. Messrs. McPhie and Co., Doneley and Rogers, and Messrs. Scholefield, Godsall, and Weaver, are all stock salesmen on a very large scale. The following returns show the stock sold by auction during the last three years:—Horses: 1904, 11,354; 1905, 9,447; 1906, 8,983. Average price: 1904, £7 6s.; 1905, £8 6s. 2d.; 1906, £11 9s. 6d. Cattle: 1905, 8,568; 1906, 18,084. Swine: 1904, 15,896; 1905, 27,644; 1906, 21,082. Fats: 1904, 6,965; 1905, 10,897; 1906, 11,243. Average price, curer's pigs, for 1906, £1 13s. 3d. These figures apply to the local yardings only. The private transactions of these, and the numerous other firms, would run into very formidable figures. Queensland stations carrying 100,000 to 200,000 sheep are often sold in one transaction.

The dairying industry has practically revolutionised farming on the Downs during the last decade. Formerly, the agriculturist depended on his crop of wheat and his crop of maize, and if these went wrong there was little left except the few pounds of butter—hand-made by his wife—for which he got about 3d. per lb. from the storekeeper, or the sale of a few steers or pigs. But with the expansion of dairying, scientific methods, and an oversea market, the farmer can now not only get his crops, but a regular monthly cheque for his cream. As a matter of fact, he gets more for his cream now than he formerly did for his butter. In a good season he can feed back his barley and wheat for a couple of months, turning it into cream, and still get a crop of grain. Concomitant with the cheque for the cream is the cheque for pigs, fattened on skim milk.

This monthly cream cheque from the butter factories has dotted the Downs all over with small but prosperous homesteads. Everywhere butter factories have sprung up.

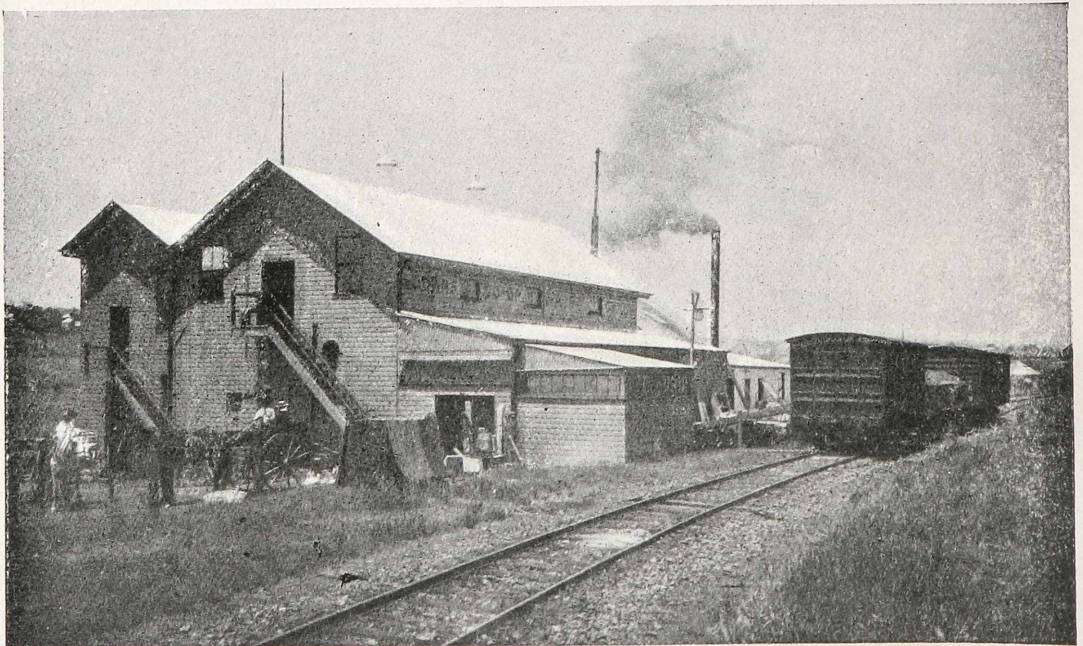
SOME TOOWOOMBA INDUSTRIES.

The principal Toowoomba factories are the Silverwood Dairy Factory Company, Limited (which has branches in other centres), and the Downs Co-operative Dairy Company, Limited. The Silverwood is the older company, and this firm, with its many branches, has fathered the butter industry from its inception.



THE SILVERWOOD BUTTER FACTORY, TOOWOOMBA.

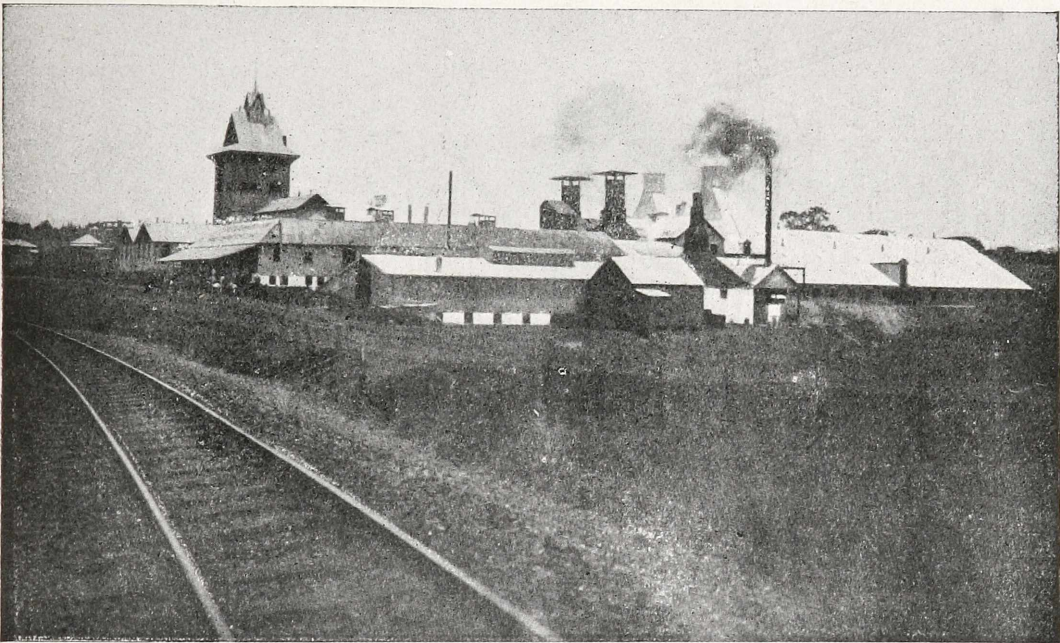
The Downs Co-operative Dairy Company, Limited, is a mutual help association, founded by practical dairymen in October, 1905. Its nominal capital is £20,000—so much on allotment and so



THE DOWNS CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY COMPANY'S BUTTER FACTORY.

much on call. Its cream-suppliers number 405. The turnover for the first six months was £19,703. The turnover for the year ending 30th June, 1907, was £55,000. The company was awarded champion butter prize at the Brisbane National Exhibition for stored butter, 1907. These few figures speak volumes, and are an eloquent testimony of co-operative enterprise, as well as a convincing proof of what the district can produce. This factory also won first prize for salted butter at the British Dairy Farmers' Association's Show in London in 1907, against 125 exhibits, the Framlingham Factory, Victoria, being second, and the North Coast Co-operative Dairy Company, New South Wales, being third.

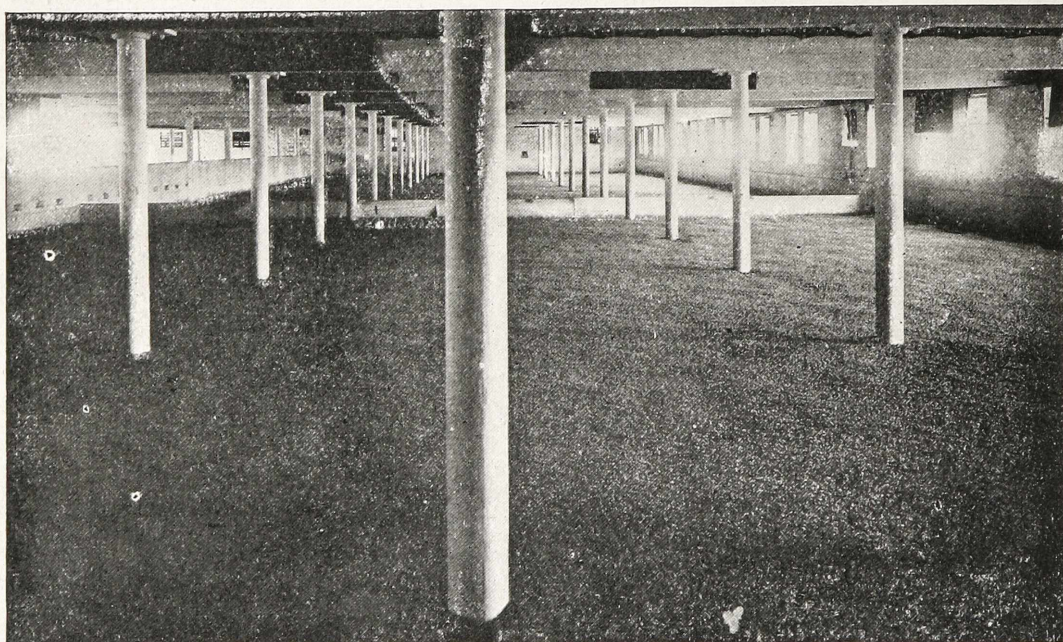
The malting industry in Queensland has had a rather curious history. Started in 1871 by the Hon. P. Perkins, in connection with his brewery (Messrs. Perkins and Co.), with a malt house capable of only dealing with 16,000 bushels of barley, it was carried on for eight years, and then lay idle for twelve years. During this interregnum all the beer was made from English malt. In 1891 the malt house was leased for five years to Mr. J. G. Sims, and in 1895 Redwood Bros., from



THE LARGEST MALT HOUSE IN AUSTRALIA (MESSRS. W. JONES AND SON, LTD.).

New Zealand, entered into a contract to malt for the brewery. Mr. Sims went to Warwick, and built a maltings there, which was worked for one season, and then remained idle until taken up by Denham Bros. and V. C. Redwood, who conducted it, and then sold it to Messrs. W. Jones and Son, Ltd., along with the Toowoomba maltings. Messrs. Perkins and Co. were so satisfied with the result that they increased their maltings to 24,000 bushels. Mr. A. H. Redwood established in 1896 the Darling Downs Malting Company. The Queensland Malting Company was formed about the same time by Mr. F. J. Paterson, in conjunction with Messrs. Samuel Allen and Sons. They established themselves in the large building in proximity to the other malt house at Oakleydale. In the meantime, Mr. V. C. Redwood was retained by Perkins and Co. as maltster. The two maltings at Oakleydale, however, were subsequently purchased by him, in partnership with the late Mr. P. O'Brien. Mr. V. C. Redwood then bought out his partner, and successfully conducted the business alone for two years. In 1904 he sold it to Messrs. William Jones and Son, Limited, of England, the largest firm of maltsters in the world, and is now managing it for them.

Mr. H. A. Goddard, the then Australian manager of the firm, was so impressed with the quality of the Darling Downs barley—samples of which sent to England have been declared to be equal to the best Hungarian—that his firm have recently completed the erection of new buildings, which contain the largest and finest malt house in the Commonwealth. Everything is worked by machinery, so there is no handling. The building is lighted throughout with electric light, and the dimensions of the block are 417 feet by 80 feet. The germinating chamber is 184 feet by 80 feet, the malt-dressing rooms 80 feet by 26 feet. Water is supplied by two wells, pumped to a tower 90 feet high, from which it gravitates throughout the building. The malt house contains

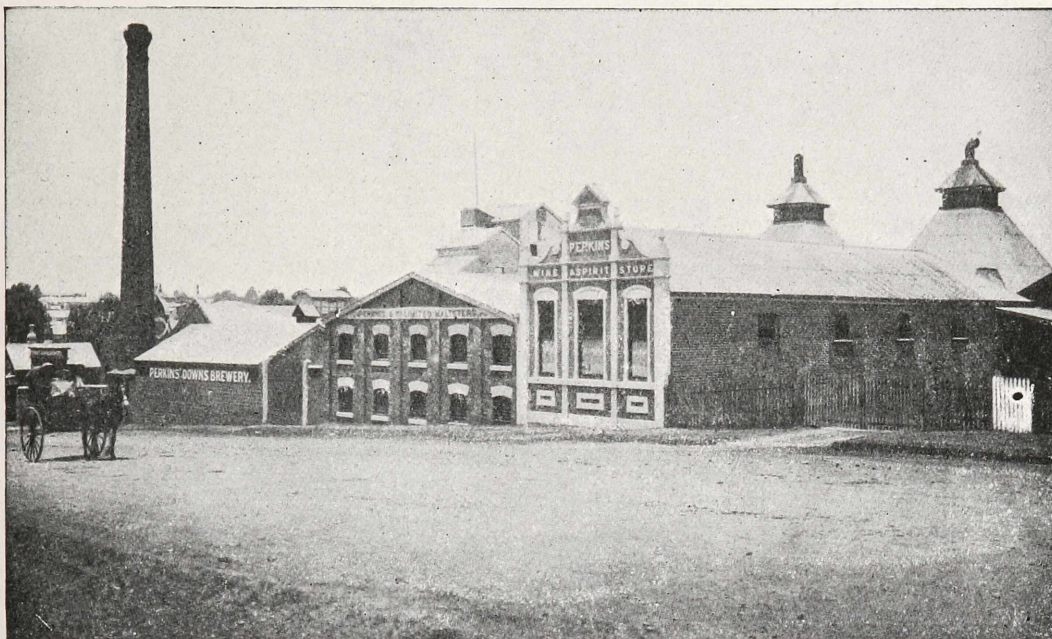


MALTING CHAMBER.

five steeples and five kilns. The tanks contain 20,000 gallons. In connection with the two new kilns (each 40 feet by 26 feet) there are patent ventilators, the invention of Mr. H. J. Marks, the architect. These two kiln-top ventilators are the only two in existence. In the old land the tops are covered, but these are absolutely open, yet rainproof. The firm can now treat 150,000 bushels per annum, and is the means of distributing nearly £50,000 annually amongst the farmers. This malt goes all over Queensland and the other States, as far as Western Australia; and a decade or two ago no malt was produced at all on the Downs.

Grain Exchange: This establishment, the first complete institution of its kind in Australasia, was erected and appointed in 1905 by Mr. V. C. Redwood, M.L.A., general manager in Australia for Messrs. W. Jones and Son, Ltd. The Grain Exchange is located at Redwood's Siding, a short distance from Toowoomba, and is most conveniently situated on the main trunk line. There are nearly 15 acres of land available for future expansion. The Exchange is equipped with the most modern machinery and appliances for the handling and treatment of grain. It has for its immediate object the raising of the standard of all cereals intended for export markets. Its principal advantages are—storage of grain for farmers, and advances against their supplies per medium of grain warrants; control of surplus stocks; concentration of clean bulks of grain; careful selection and distribution of clean and reliable seed; also cleaning and grading. An original process for the effectual treatment of weevil-infested grain is a specialty of the establishment.

Perkins and Co.'s Brewery, the largest outside Brisbane, was established in 1869 by the Hon. P. Perkins and his brother, Mr. T. Perkins. The output in those days was only thirty to forty hogsheads per week; but it has been increased to 160 hogsheads. This brewery supplies the whole of the Darling Downs, and west to Cunnamulla and Goondiwindi. The buildings cover 3 acres.



MESSERS. PERKINS AND CO.'S BREWERY, MARGARET STREET, TOOWOOMBA.

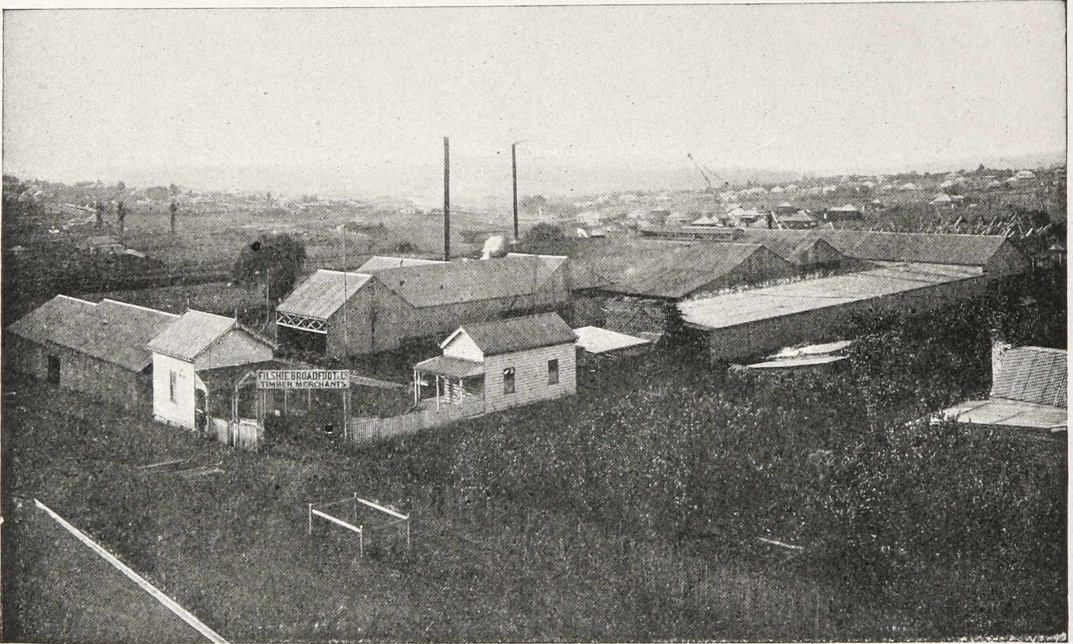
Only a few years ago the company spent as much as £10,000 a year importing malt from England. That amount, and considerably more, is now distributed amongst the farmers, as the brewery is now making its own malt. The malt output is 50,000 bushels. This, with the 150,000 bushels turned out by Messrs. W. Jones and Son, Ltd., makes the total Toowoomba output 200,000 bushels.

There is but one Bacon Factory in Toowoomba, that of Messrs. Krimmer and Reed, situated at Oakleydale. This is an up-to-date establishment, fitted up with all the latest machinery, but the demand is greater than the supply, and the firm could put through double the number of pigs were they obtainable.

The Toowoomba Foundry Company, Limited, was started in 1872 by Mr. G. W. Griffiths, the present managing director, and in 1884 floated into a limited liability company. At first it was on a small scale, but the firm made a specialty of manufacturing windmills, and the business has gradually and steadily grown, till at present about ninety hands are employed, and the output of windmills reaches approximately 100 per month. In addition to these, there are, of course, other parts which go to make up a complete pumping and storage plant, such as pumps, troughing, tanks, all of which are manufactured by the company. Last year a branch depôt was established at Park street, Alexandria, Sydney, as a distributing centre for the company's New South Wales agents, with very gratifying results. For some time past considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining suitable labour; in fact, men seem to be unobtainable, and, were they available, the company could increase its output by 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. without difficulty.

Timber: In 1860 there was only one small sawmill in Toowoomba, which turned out about 7,000 superficial feet of timber per week, principally hardwood. Very little pine was used at that time, except for doors and sashes. In 1864, when the first line of railway was being made between Ipswich and Grandchester, another and much larger mill was erected at Highfields, 20 miles north

of Toowoomba, which turned out about 20,000 feet per week. Owing to the continued demand, this mill had to put on a night shift, which increased its output to 40,000 feet per week. In 1874 a third mill was erected at Geham, 15 miles from Toowoomba, and turned out about 40,000 feet per week. Up to this time more than three-fourths of the supply was hardwood, but in 1876 the first



MESSRS. FILSHIE, BROADFOOT, AND CO.'S SAWMILLS.

planing machine was introduced into the district, and the demand for pine has yearly increased. The demand for pine and hardwood is now about equal, and the mills that supply Toowoomba and district are turning out 120,000 feet per week, working ordinary hours. The demand is still increasing.



THE DEFIANCE FLOUR MILLS.

The Electric Light and Power Company, Limited, started in 1906, is marking a new epoch in the history of Toowoomba. The original generating capacity of the electric plant was 100 kilowatt, and this has recently been duplicated. The boilers are of the Babcock and Wilcox type. The dynamo is directly coupled to a Bellis and Morcom quick-revolution engine, capable of generating 150 brake horse power (now duplicated). Since its inception it has gone ahead rapidly. The Town Hall and most of the business places and hotels are now lighted with electric light, and the demands for supply are daily increasing. Day power is now supplied to several business establishments. The three-wire system is in use, the voltage being 240 and 480. The cables are laid underground, in earthenware conduits, and then filled with bitumen. There would be no difficulty at present in undertaking a tram system did the occasion warrant it. In a few years an electric tram system will in all probability be an accomplished fact in Toowoomba.

SUBURBS AND ENVIRONS.

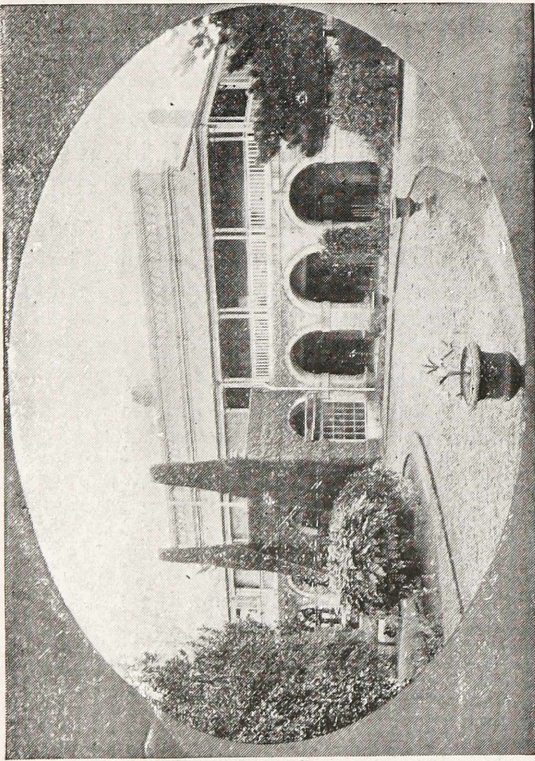
The stranger visiting Toowoomba will find much in his surroundings to delight the eye and linger in the mind. A ramble in the morning through the leafy streets or to the Botanic Gardens in Campbell street—opposite the R. A. Show Ground, which itself is a picture—will well repay the weary brain-worker of our coastal cities. Delightful foliage and freshness everywhere!

A short drive to Picnic Point, a bluff headland on the Range, will secure as fine a natural picture as can be seen in Australia. Standing on this vantage point, the visitor beholds a magnificent panorama of mountain scenery, stretching on three sides at his feet, with the treeless

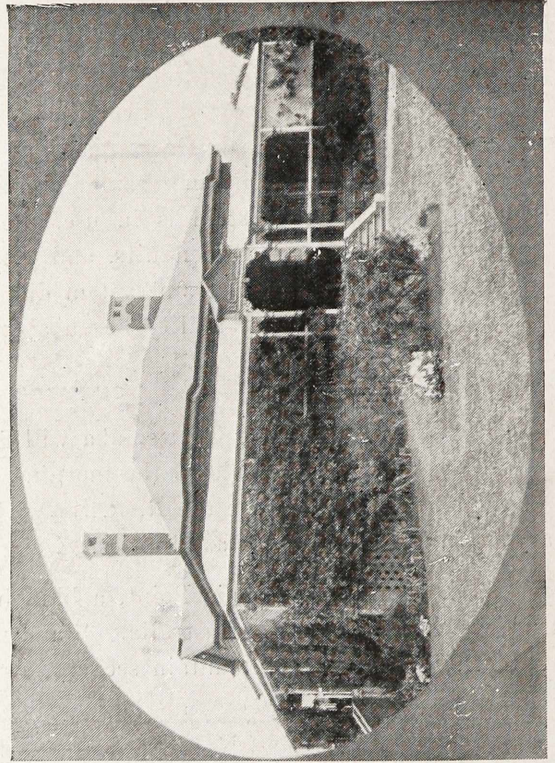


SPRING CREEK, NEAR TOOWOOMBA.

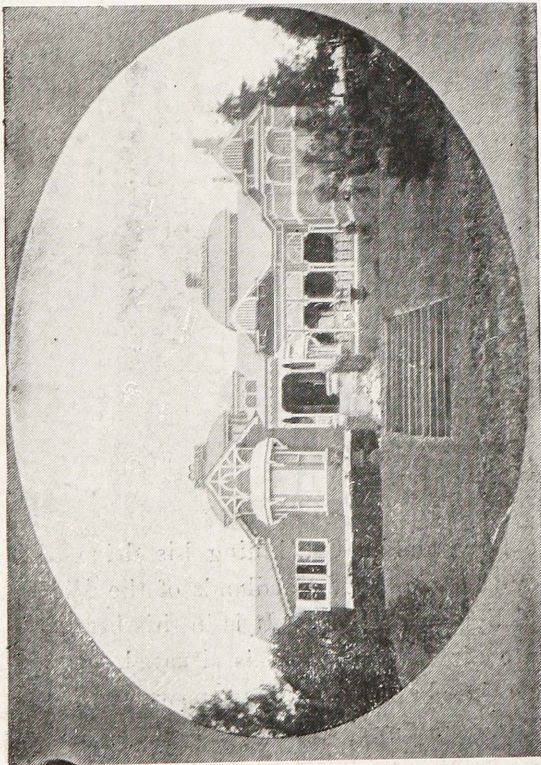
summit of Table Top Mountain rising in the immediate foreground. Continuing his drive, the visitor should not fail to take a run through the farms, orange groves, and woodlands of the Middle Ridge, where at every turn the eye is met with some fresh, delightful vignette. It is in this beautiful neighbourhood that "Gabbinar," the residence of the late Sir Hugh Nelson, is situated. In all these suburban farms and gardens will be found growing in abundance apples, pears, apricots, peaches, nectarines, mulberries, oranges of all descriptions, strawberries, plums of all varieties, loquats, quinces, and other fruit.



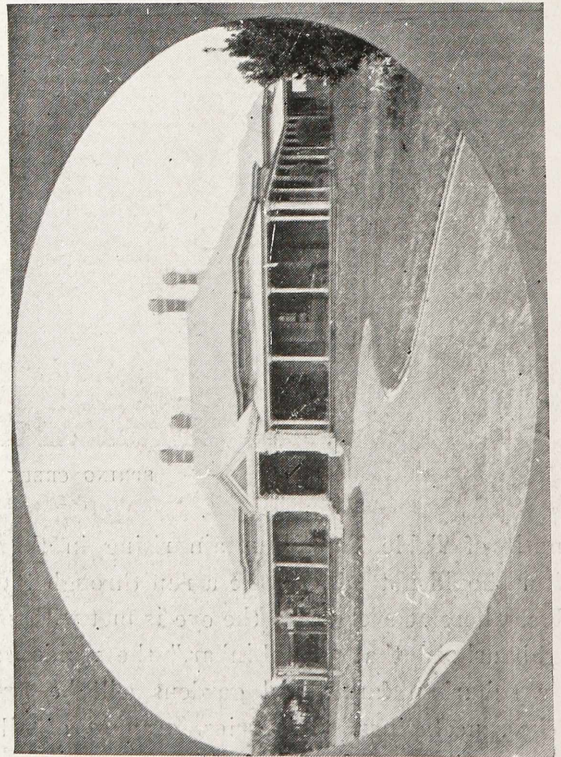
CLIFFORD HOUSE.



RESIDENCE OF MR. E. J. GODSALL.

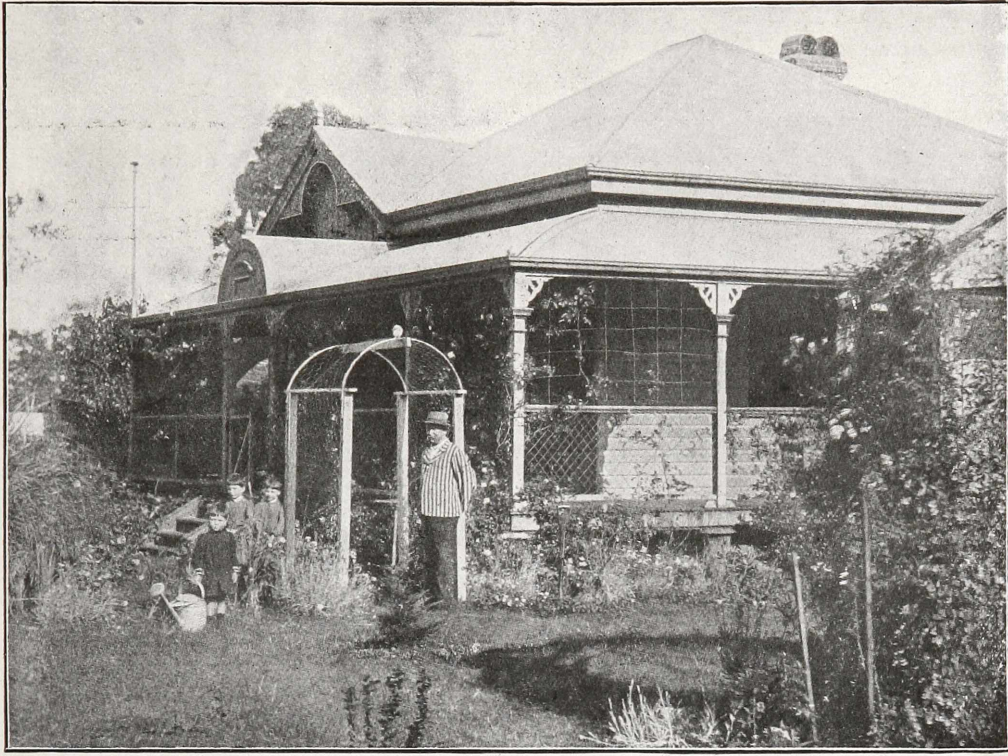


MR. J. H. MUNRO'S RESIDENCE.



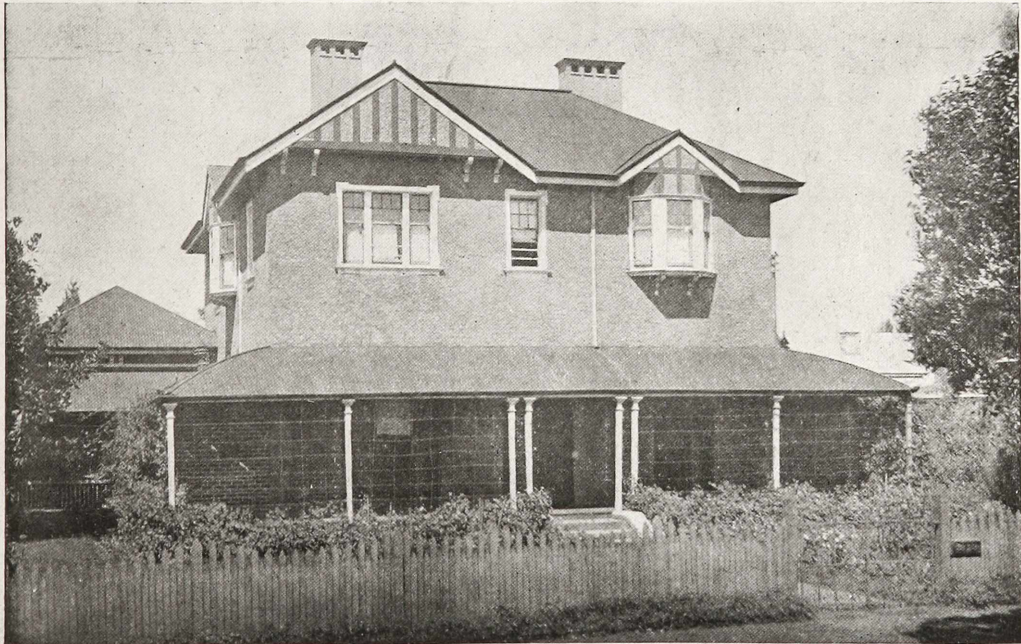
MR. G. G. CORY'S RESIDENCE.

An equally pretty excursion can be made in the opposite direction by following the Highfields road, which winds along the summit of the Range, disclosing magnificent scenery. A diversion

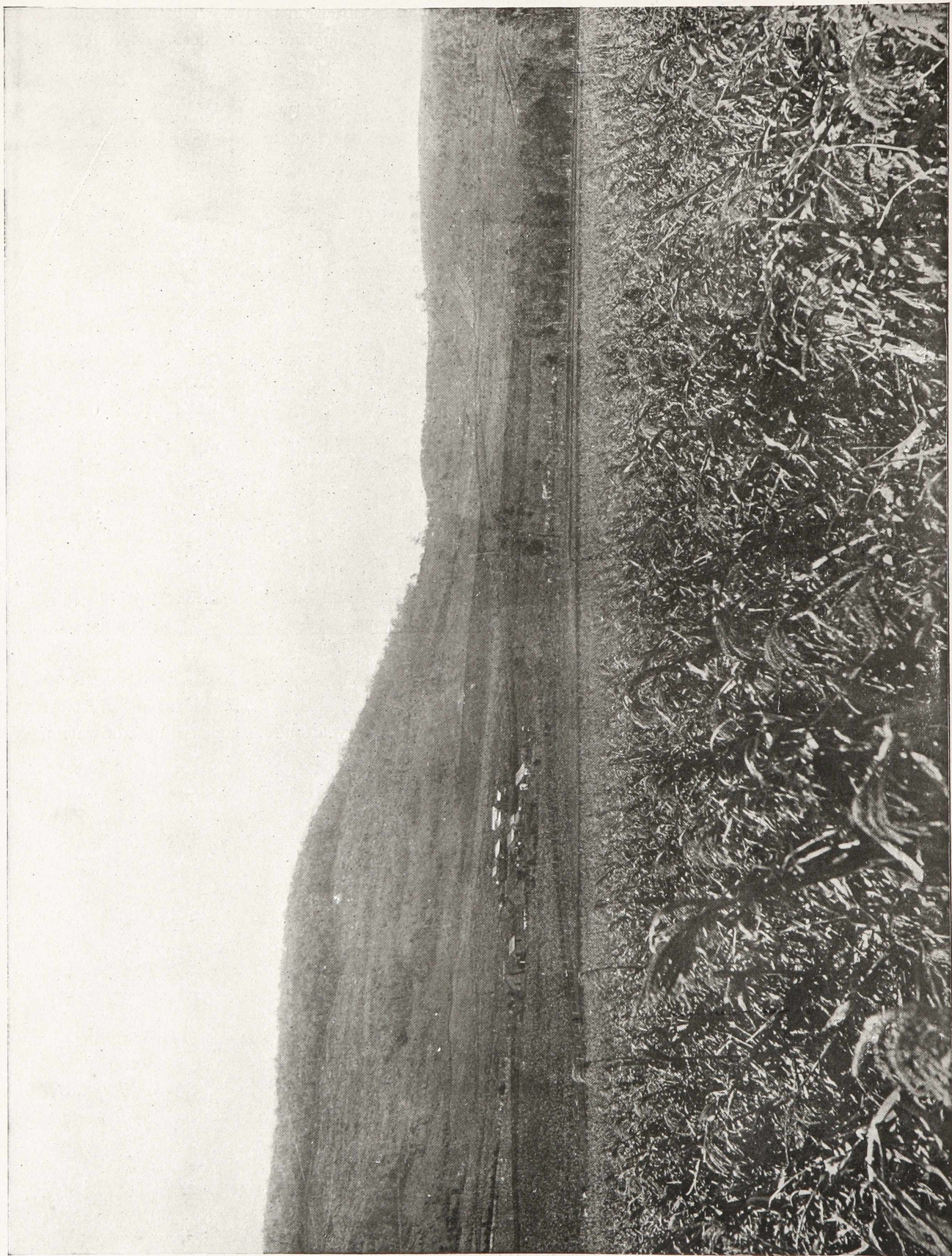


A TOOWOOMBA SUBURBAN RESIDENCE.

from this road, a few miles from the city, will lead the stranger to Spring Bluff, the prettiest railway station in Queensland, where the plane trees, planted some years ago, exact willing admiration



RESIDENCE OF A LEADING DOCTOR, TOOWOOMBA.



from all visitors. This is a favourite picnic ground for fern-hunters and holiday-makers. By going still further afield to Hampton, and descending thence to Ravensbourne, the tropical luxuriance of the scrub scenery recalls the opulence of the famous Northern jungles.

A drive round the western suburbs and environments of the city will also well repay the sightseer. In the summer season the farms look splendid, and the paddocks are a mass of green grass and white clover. I know of no prettier picture than the quaint old hamlet of Drayton, with its memories of the past and its picturesque setting of broken hills and bright strips of cultivated land. Glenvale also is a perfect landscape gem, and all round the Gowrie road and out to the asylum a succession of pictures meets the eye. But if you will allow me to advise you, I will say: Take a vehicle for the day and drive out to see Glencoe, a mountain vale, the loveliest of them all.

DISTRICT CENTRES.

The remark of Campbell, one of the early pioneers, that in 1841 "there was but one bark hut on the whole Downs," recalls to the present writer the memory of several rides from Toowoomba to Warwick made by him some twenty-six years ago. The only intervening houses at that time were the big head stations and a few isolated farms. Now it is almost impossible to get out of sight of a house the whole way. If the visitor has a few days' leisure to spend and sufficient means, he cannot do better than occupy himself in seeing something of the splendid country lying around Pittsworth, Oakey, Gowrie, and Clifton. Here farming operations are conducted on a grand scale, hundreds of acres being under crop on one holding, and herds of dairy cows, running up to 200 in full profit, can be seen.

Along the Warwick Railway line, and at a short distance from it, is Greenmount, noted for its splendid butter and cheese. There is a large cheese factory here, turning out cheese of excellent quality. A visit to Greenmount will repay the visitor. There is an excellent and well-conducted hotel; good fishing and shooting amid beautiful scenery. Excursions can easily be arranged at Mr. Bell's hotel.

Outside of Toowoomba, Pittsworth undoubtedly is the most populous centre at this end of the Downs. It is but 25 miles from the city, and is the most central spot of the whole plateau. Twenty-five years ago it was a part of Felton Run. It is the centre of the farming settlements of Southbrook, Umbirom, Broxburn, Beauaraba, Kincora, North Branch, and Hermitage, which are chiefly devoted to wheat, maize, barley, lucerne growing, and dairying. The Beauaraba Scrub is a closely settled community; but on the big black soil plains large farms are common. Near it is situated Yandilla, the only station on the Downs still in the hands of its original proprietors or their descendants. Near it also stood Brookstead, Mr. Tyson Doneley's fine property, now cut up into farms. And between Pittsworth and the Southern and Western Railway, near Southbrook, is Harrow, one of the most up-to-date farming and grazing properties in Queensland. The bulk of the estate, except a few thousand acres, has, also, been subdivided and sold.

Oakey, also, is a rapidly rising township, where a large volume of business is transacted. It is situated on the Western Railway line, and is surrounded by splendid land, on which are large well-cultivated properties devoted to wheat-growing, lucerne, and sheep-raising. A very fine quality of coal is being worked there. Oakey, in fact, is a coming place, of which its residents are justifiably proud. Jondaryan township is situated on the main Dalby line, about 30 miles from Toowoomba, and is a steadily improving locality.

A visit to Gowrie—now Kingsthorpe—about 12 miles from Toowoomba, may also be recommended. Around the old head station quite a town has grown up. It will be remembered that this estate was only a few years ago purchased by the Government. Large areas can here be



CROW'S NEST FALLS.

observed under crop, and the scenery is beautiful. The Gowrie Colliery is turning out an excellent sample of coal. Clifton is also another very important centre. Its growth of late years is but an earnest of its future pre-eminence. The rapidly increasing township of Crow's Nest, near Bald Hills, is not really on the Downs at all, but on the eastern slope of the Main Range, 34 miles by rail (but less by road) from Toowoomba. It is surrounded by fine stretches of timber and agricultural land. Timber, maize, potatoes, and lucerne are the chief products. Gold and tin have also been found in close proximity to the town.

It will thus be seen that the city of Toowoomba is the capital of a district containing a dozen different centres, all of which are rapidly increasing in size and importance—daughters, as it were, clustering round the mother-city of them all.

HIGHFIELDS AND CROW'S NEST.

NORTH and north-west of Toowoomba are the parishes of Geham, Douglas, Meringandan, Goombungee, Milton, and Crow's Nest, which form a nest of settlement. The country being of a broken character attracts a good rainfall, and these farming coteries are amongst the most prosperous on the Downs. Many farms in these localities have changed hands at as high a figure as £10 per acre. At Meringandan Railway Station and township, one-third of the way between Toowoomba



SCRUB SCENE.

and Crow's Nest, the Crow's Nest branch line, which was principally built on account of the timber traffic from that place and Pechey, receives the produce of the farming settlements of Goombungee, Little and Big Gomoron, Milton, and Douglas, all closely settled with small farms. At Klienton, near Toowoomba, on the Crow's Nest Railway, there are excellent brick works.

The soil of the Meringandan country, which runs towards the Range, is rich chocolate, varying from black to red. The scrub lands are excessively rich, and the forest land good grazing, with a soil poorer in quality. The farmers are well-to-do, and principally engaged in growing maize and wheat, in fattening pigs and dairying. Mr. D. McIntyre is the member for the Aubigny electorate.

Glencoe, lying between Gowrie and Meringandan, is a lovely mountain vale, much resembling the rich valley lands at Yangan and Emuvale. It is the pick of the agricultural land adjacent to Toowoomba.

The Goombungee country, after passing the township, is somewhat similar to Meringandan, except that the tops of the ridges are flatter. It consists of undulating and flat-topped sandstone ridges, heavily timbered in places, the soil ranging from light and sandy loam on some of the ridges to black soil on the flats. It is all thickly settled. In the Milton district the farms are larger in area, and some of the flats are exceedingly fertile. The country here chiefly comprises black soil flats and ridges. The district is heavily timbered with ironbark and other hardwoods, but the soil is very rich. Further along the line from Meringandan, at Hampton, which is on the crest of the Dividing Range, the agricultural settlement to the east on Perseverance Creek and Ravensbourne is tapped; also, the vast hardwood forests around these places, consisting principally of blackbutt and turpentine, grey, red, and blue gum, and ironbark. At Pechey and at Crow's Nest



TAKING CREAM TO THE FACTORY, HIGHFIELDS DISTRICT.

Railway Station, where the line terminates, the traffic consists principally of timber. Messrs. Filshie, Broadfoot, and Co. have large sawmills at Perseverance and at Toowoomba. At Perseverance, below the Range, Messrs. Munro have erected a fine sawmill with all modern appliances and lighted by electricity, so as to keep going day and night, in the centre of this vast hardwood forest. The timber, when sawn, goes up 8 miles on the firm's tramway to the railway line at Hampton. This tramway, which here surmounts the Range—an engineering feat worthy of a civil engineer—was entirely planned and carried out under the eye of Mr. D. Munro, at a cost of under £800 a mile, being less than half the professional estimate. This line also taps the whole of the Ravensbourne agricultural land, and enables the farmers to bring their produce up the Range.

From Bald Hills, about 4 miles west of Crow's Nest, a magnificent panorama of the country on four sides can be obtained.

The little township of Crow's Nest, near Bald Hills, is now a thriving centre, by road 25 miles north of Toowoomba, on the eastern slope of the Main Range. Magnificent agricultural lands surround it. Farming, and especially dairying, flourishes. The timber attains an immense size, and there is an abundance of pine, blackbutt, stringybark, turpentine, and ironbark. There are four steam sawmills in the district. At Emu Creek, Messrs. Filshie, Broadfoot, and Co. have a Canadian mill on the most modern lines. The Pinelands Estate, 3 miles from Crow's Nest, which was repurchased from the Government and cut up into farms ranging from 70 to 100 acres, has all been taken up. Potatoes, wheat, maize, and lucerne are now produced in abundance on these cleared scrub farms. Part of the Pechey Estate, within 3 miles of the town, was surveyed into blocks ranging from 40 to 160 acres. These were sold locally at prices ranging from £1 15s. to £4 per acre. Emu Creek Station was also recently surveyed for auction, and 7,000 acres out of 15,000 acres sold to local residents. Many of the timber merchants of Toowoomba hold large areas of land here of the finest agricultural quality, which will probably be offered for settlement when the timber has been removed.

Blackbutt Timber Reserve, 22 to 25 miles from Crow's Nest, contains millions of feet of both hardwood and pine.

ALONG THE WESTERN LINE.

Oakey.

Oakey is situated about 18 miles from Toowoomba, between Gowrie and Jondaryan. It was once part of Westbrook Estate. Oakey is now a flourishing farming centre, supported chiefly by agriculture, pastoral industries, and coal. The surrounding districts include Cross Hill, Aubigny, Happy Valley, Boah Peak, and Lagoon Creek. Wheat, barley, potatoes, and maize are grown extensively. A very considerable trade is done in chaff. There is a large amount of dairying and lamb-raising, the quality of the land being especially adapted to the latter pursuit. The country is well watered by Oakey Creek, one of the best watercourses on the Downs. The settlement on Westbrook and the repurchase of Gowrie and Mount Russell Estates by the Government for subdivision into small areas have resulted in the establishment of thriving farming communities on lands formerly only supporting sheep. The Oakey Coal Company, Limited, which is connected with the Western Railway by a loop line, produces coal and coke of an excellent quality. This coal is sent to Roma, Toowoomba, and other centres, and is also supplied to the Queensland railways.

Jondaryan.

One of the most extensive, oldest, and best-known properties on the Downs is the huge pastoral block owned by the Jondaryan Estates Company. Quite a township surrounds the Railway Station, situated half-way between Toowoomba and Dalby, consisting of Court House, Post and Telegraph Office, State school, and several hotels and stores. The country-side as far as Nanango finds an outlet here. Jondaryan is a large trucking centre, the various stations of Jondaryan, Cecil Plains, Vacy, Walhalla, Mount Irving, Mount Russell, and the East and West Prairies sending large quantities of wool and fat stock (sheep, cattle, and pigs), and the various agricultural centres of Rosalie, Jondaryan, Quinalow, Evergreen, Cooyar, and Aubigny sending dairy and agricultural produce.

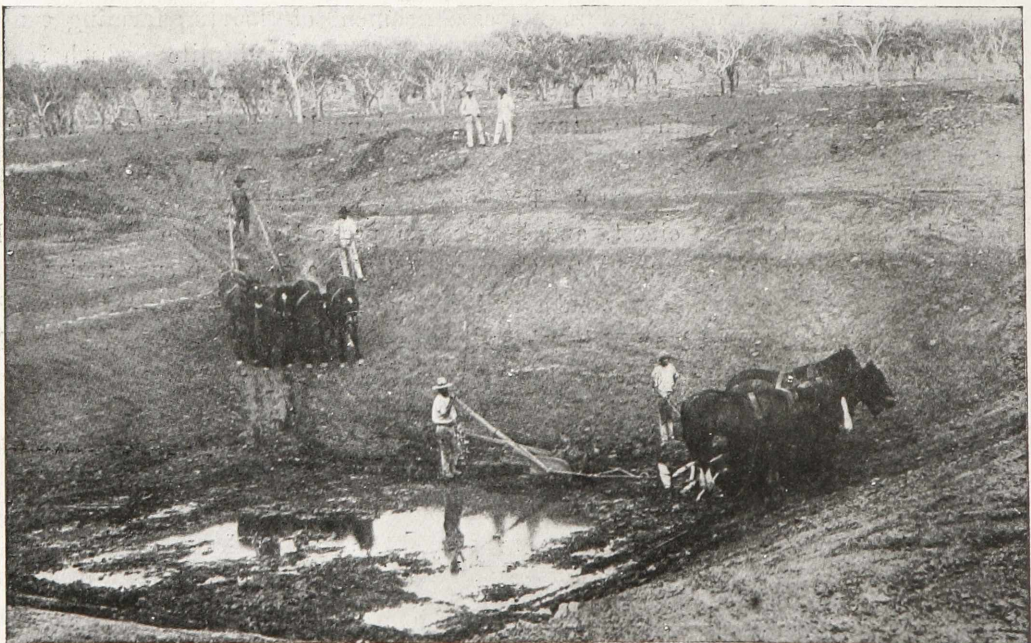
The head station is situated about 2 miles from the railway line on Oakey Creek, and forms another little township. Originally the estate consisted of 155,000 acres, principally splendidly grassed prairie land, carrying some 140,000 sheep, with a clip of about 1,300 bales of wool, and

turning out 30,000 to 40,000 fats annually. A couple of thousand head of cattle are also kept. Between 2,000 and 3,000 acres of land is cultivated, chiefly for the stock. The woolshed, fitted with all modern appliances, is the largest in the district, and about 3,000 sheep are shorn daily during shearing time. The rainfall is 30 inches in ordinary seasons.



MACHINE SHEARING AT JONDARYAN.

The estate is now being cut up for closer settlement. About 20,000 acres of the property, north of the railway line, has been subdivided and sold in small areas. Another 35,000 acres is at present under offer to a syndicate, who are purchasing for the purpose of close settlement. It is intended by the proprietors to cut up the residue of the property as occasion requires.



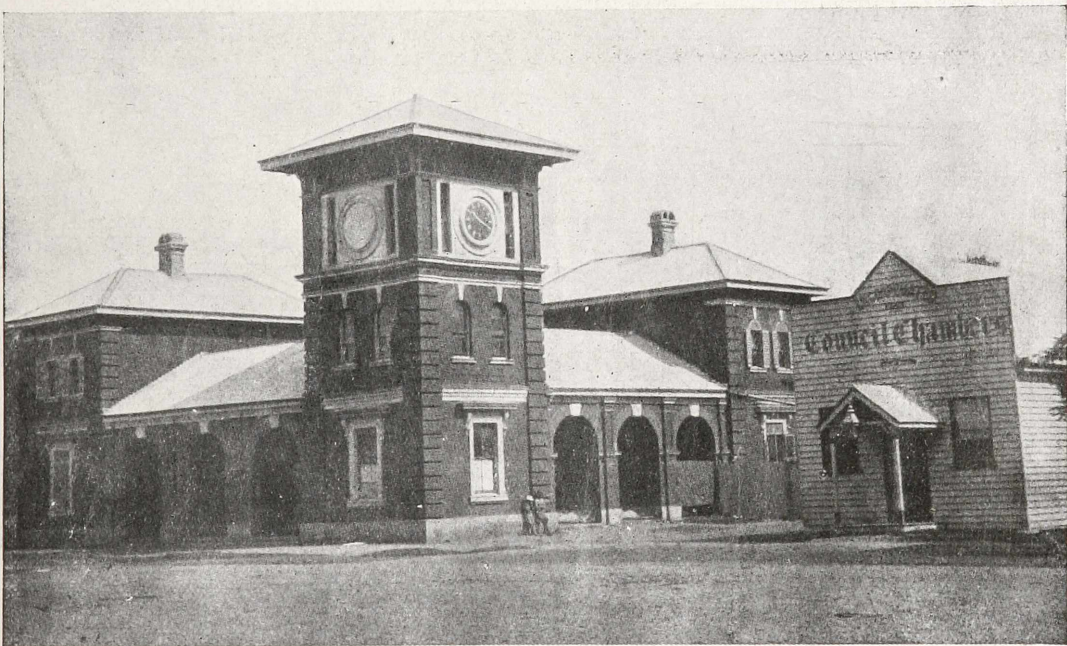
DAM-MAKING, JONDARYAN.

These immense prairies, where in the old days the oat grasses waved 8 feet and 10 feet high, and horsemen in the early mornings would be soaked from head to foot by the dew, have enormous carrying and recuperative powers. Originally a huge lake bed, they now present the spectacle of illimitable plain, with mountain summits here and there, floating like dim blue clouds on the horizon. Seen after rain, these great prairie lands are as a vast emerald sea, with innumerable white specks, representing thousands of sheep, dotted like tiny sails over the expanse, and form a picture not easily forgotten. Immense areas could be put down in wheat over these plains, and no doubt in the future they will become a hive of industry.

It is more than probable that, viewing the great activity in land settlement now in progress on the Downs, all these large estates, right out to Cecil Plains and Yandilla, will ultimately become the homes of thousands of settlers.

DALBY.

The town of Dalby, called the City of the Plains, is situated on a very level site on Myall Creek, 153 miles west of Brisbane, and about 50 miles from Toowoomba. It contains Court House, Post and Telegraph Office, Hospital, Railway Station, three banks, three churches, thirteen hotels, and numerous shops and business premises. During the twelve months ending 31st December, 1906, 130 new buildings have been erected. The population is about 2,000. On account of its mild and even climate, Dalby is peculiarly suited to persons suffering from chest diseases, and a large sanatorium for consumptives, erected by the Government at a cost of £7,000, adjoins the town.



POST OFFICE, DALBY.

The rateable value of town property in the last twelve months has gone up from £40,000 to £62,000, the main street frontages having quadrupled in value. Dalby is now connected by telephone with Brisbane and all the different centres on the Darling Downs and west to Miles. Land settlement, which commenced actively about 1903 and has continued in an increasing ratio ever since, is chiefly responsible for the great progress made during recent years; in fact, it has revolutionised the town. Up to two years ago such a thing as a stock sale was almost unknown in Dalby. Now the town is full of land and stock agents, and business is very brisk.



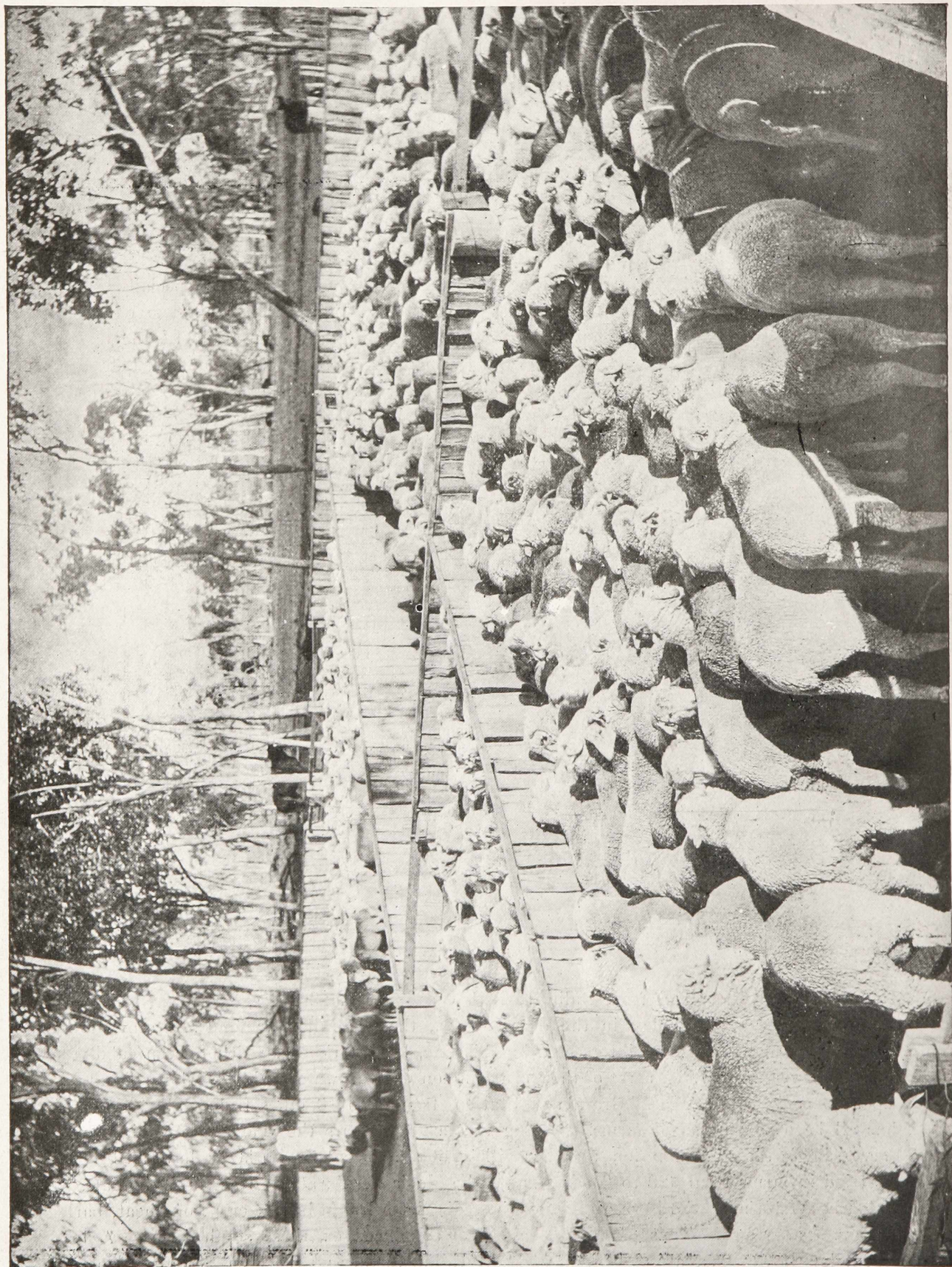
TYPICAL DALBY COUNTRY.

Large areas of Government land are being taken up in small selections by new-comers. At each monthly sitting of the local Land Court between forty and sixty applications by new settlers—most of them practical farmers from the South—are dealt with. At present the principal settlement is taking place in the vicinity of Warra, Chinchilla, and Bell (the terminus of the new branch railway). Dairying and general agriculture are being carried on on a scale hitherto unattempted. The 1906 crop was a record one for the district, and several individual farmers harvested between nine and eleven bags of wheat per acre. The flour mill, owned by Mr. James Dick, started operations again in December, and received a good share of local support, and Mr. James Clark opened an up-to-date butter factory during the year, which is also doing well. The wool yield for 1906 was a phenomenal one. Large consignments of fat sheep and cattle were sent to Brisbane during the year, and many huge stock sales were held, all of them being successful. Dalby, from its position, is specially adapted to the holding of such sales, and should, in time, become one of the most important stock centres in Queensland. The town and district have never, even when Dalby was the terminus for the Western Railway, had such bright prospects. Now that the Jimbour Estate, comprising some 162,000 acres of magnificent land, has been purchased by the Government for settlement, and is to be thrown open shortly, these prospects are doubly bright.



SWIMMING HORSES, DALBY.

In 1906 the railway line from Dalby to Bell, a distance of 23 miles, was opened, and goes through some of the best country in the district—viz., the Cumkillenbar lands. Dalby Downs, comprising 16,000 acres, and also intersected by this line, has, at time of writing, been subdivided and sold. A few years ago 7,000 acres of the town common was thrown open by the Government, and taken up at once in small areas. Greenbank Station, from 7 to 10 miles from Dalby, cut up in 1902, has all been sold as small farms. During the last few years the whole of Wyobie Station, 50,000 acres, Logie Plains resumption, together with a lot of adjacent Crown lands, have all been cut up and settled in farms from 320 to 2,500 acres. The Moola Scrub, at the back of Irvingdale, has been settled by Victorians, who have given the whole district a lesson by the crops of wheat, barley, prairie grass, &c., grown. Tons of onions have been produced on these scrub farms. A brisk development has taken place around Warra and Chinchilla, further up the line. To give some idea



FAT SHEEP IN YARDS, DAANDINE.

of the immense amount of settlement now going on, it may briefly be said that from the 1st January, 1907, to 10th September, 1907, 475,893 acres of Government land have been settled—an average of 52,877 acres per month. The occupation licenses approved during the same term total $243\frac{3}{4}$



SELECTOR'S HUT, WARRA.

square miles in holdings of from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 64 square miles each. This is not taking into consideration the numerous large private properties which have been subdivided and sold. It is, therefore, apparent that something like half a million acres have been settled in a little over six months.



LAGOON AT WARRA.

Dalby is also a fine fattening district. Four thousand wethers in one line were sold recently at O.K. Station for £1 a head—within 5 miles of the railway—and 18s. 6d. per head given for 400 culls. The wool from the Dalby district has topped the market for years—15d. per lb. for greasy wool from Logie Plains was obtained in Brisbane in 1907. Loudon Station topped the market in New South Wales in 1906 for greasy wool.



RAILWAY DAM, CHINCHILLA.

Settlement is now spreading down the Moonie. One sheep farmer from Victoria has just taken up 15,000 acres, and considers it splendid country. It is probable that a railway extension will shortly be made by the Government to develop these lands.



LOADED UP.

JIMBOUR.

Perhaps the most famous of all the old Darling Downs sheepwalks is Jimbour, identified with the history of Queensland as having been for long years the residence of Sir Joshua Peter Bell, a man so universally beloved and respected that his memory is still as green in the hearts of the people as it was on the day he died, twenty-six years ago. As Colonial Treasurer, Minister for Lands and Works, President of the Legislative Council, and Acting Governor of the colony, he evinced a rare combination of intellectual, moral, and social qualities which made him the most popular man who has ever been in public life in Queensland. His son, the Hon. J. T. Bell, M.L.A., Minister for Lands, is following worthily in his father's footsteps. He has already done more to settle people on the land than any previous Minister.

Jimbour House is a lofty and handsome two-storied mansion, built of sandstone taken from a quarry in the neighbourhood of Bunjeenie Scrub, about 6 miles from the head station, and of timber from the Bunya Mountains. It is the finest residence on the Downs, much resembling an English gentleman's seat.



LAGOON ON JIMBOUR.

Jimbour originally comprised an enormous area of country, chiefly given up to wool-growing, fattening sheep, cattle, and breeding horses. At one time the station was pre-eminent in all departments of stock-breeding. The Jimbour stud merino flock in the show grounds of Southern Queensland held its own against such formidable rivals as Headington Hill, Etonvale, and Glengallan.

The Jimbour of to-day consists of 132,000 acres, two-thirds of it being rich black soil plain, 30 feet deep in places, and the balance open box and gum forest, with myall flats covered with brown loamy soil. The annual rainfall is about 28 inches. The run is bounded, roughly, by Cooranga Creek on the north, Bon Accord Run on the south, the Condamine River on the west, and the selections of the Cattle Creek and Spring Flat districts to the east. Perhaps the pick of the country for agricultural purposes is the Cumkillenbar land, but there is a lovely tract of country suitable for intense farming and dairying around Spring Flat and along the valley of Cattle Creek. The Spring Flat country is veritably of a type to delight the eye of the dairyman and agriculturist,



JIMBOUR COUNTRY.

being a beautiful valley of rich soil, heavily grassed, with water obtainable anywhere at easy depths from 15 feet to 50 feet. This land is capable of supporting hundreds of settlers. The station is



VIEW ON JIMBOUR.

watered by Jimbour and Cattle Creeks, which rise in the Bunya Mountains, junction three-quarters of a mile below the homestead, and, flowing through the run, join the Condamine close to Macalister.



CUTTING LUCERNE.

Water is also got at depths from 40 feet to 150 feet. Jimbour was the first run on the Downs on which a subterranean supply of water was used, the first windmill being erected in 1877.



PINE SCRUB, BUNYA MOUNTAINS.

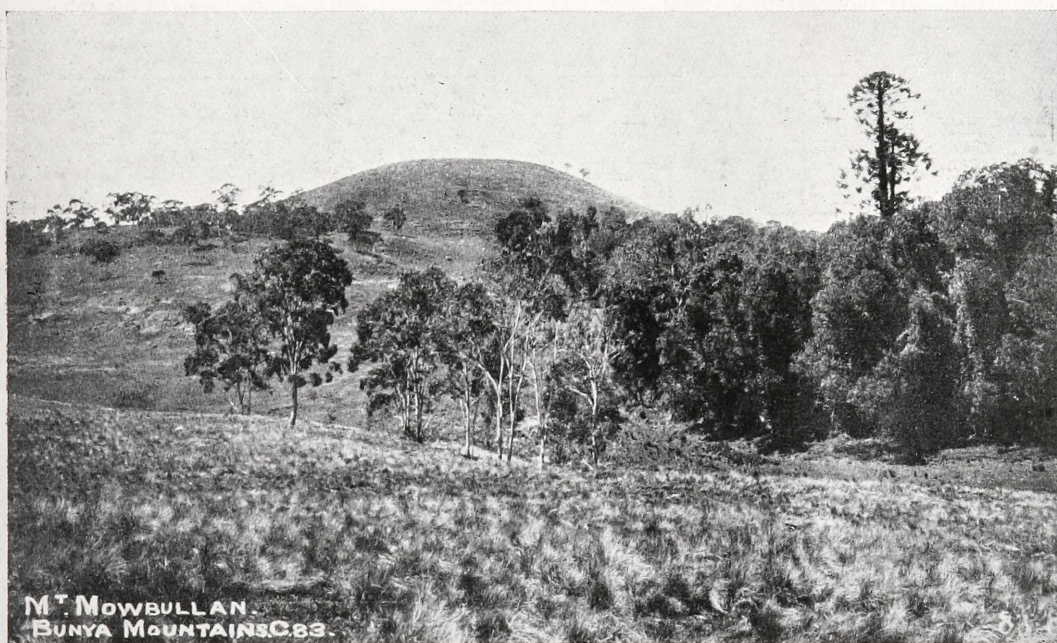
No country on the Downs so resembles the American prairies as the Jimbour Plains. They have the same long gradual heave and fall, so fine as to be almost imperceptible. Plain turkeys are plentiful; you can almost drive over them. The plain country is suitable for wheat-growing, whilst the rich open forest land and scrubs are splendidly adapted for dairying, maize, and potatoes.

All this land will shortly be open for settlement.

THE BUNYA MOUNTAINS.

In the Bunya Mountains, situated about 35 miles east of Dalby, is to be found the most unique scenery in Southern Queensland. They can be reached by a drive of 17 miles from the railway station of Bell.

These remarkable mountains, with their singular bald summits, are really part of the Main Range, but their altitude is nearly twice as great as the bold escarpments around Toowoomba. Mount Mowbullán ("the Bald Head") is the highest, being 3,600 feet above the level of the sea. The wide plains and grass lands around Jimbour and Dalby run like a green sea to their base, from which they rise dark and splendid against the sky. Belts of silver-plumed brigalow, with their black branches



MOUNT MOWBULLAN, 3,600 FEET ABOVE SEA-LEVEL, BUNYA MOUNTAINS.

showing in charming contrast, relieved by the waving tresses of the myall and the sombre foliage of the belar, are passed through as you draw nearer to the hills. Now and again you enter a tiny green plain or natural paddock which the brigalow has fenced on four sides with walls of silver, or drive through some rushing watercourse, with the current boiling round the horses' girths. Not far from Mowbullán, at the base of a razor-backed ridge on Cattle Creek, formerly stood the old Bunya sawmill, now burnt down. Millions of feet of bunya, hoop pine, beech, and cedar have been turned out by these mills between 1883 and 1891, whilst as many as forty teams were employed removing the timber to Dalby. Visitors to the mountains are recommended to take a tent with

them and camp out. Although the mountain bridle tracks are steep, they are quite practicable on horseback. Ladies can make the ascent with perfect safety. Any slight inconvenience is more than atoned for by the unsurpassable beauty of the scrubs. For here, there falls on the soul the hush and awe of a great cathedral. In these lofty temples of Nature, which the Great Architect has fashioned, man feels only his own insignificance in the presence of a vast design. Centuries old, and towering 200 feet above you, their topmost branches massed with orchids and lichen, rise the huge russet-brown columns of the bunyas, the ringed majestic heights of the hoop pine, and the smooth white pillars of the beech, a hundred feet without a limb. Festoons of brilliant creepers and the thick cordage of the scrub vine swing overhead. From the limbs of grey dead trees flakes of brown and sage coloured moss droop pendulous. At times you pass down avenues of white and yellow orchids, past beds of arum lilies, and between dark green walls of scrub myrtle or through a miniature forest of graceful tree ferns. The broad emerald leaves of the stinging-tree rise at intervals against a dark environment. Shafts of variegated light strike across the green forest glooms like the soft rays from huge oriel windows. Here, the moss-covered stump of some fallen cedar giant shows



VIEW FROM MOWBULLAN, BUNYA MOUNTAINS.

amid a rambling mass of wild raspberry bushes; there, a huge Moreton Bay fig-tree spreads a leafy shade over the track, its hollow trunk a network of grey cable, inside of which a man can climb for 40 feet. Suddenly the scrub will end abruptly, and you will find yourself on a grassy promontory looking down some precipitous timber-shoot, with a stretching vista of purple hill and yellow plain beyond. Then you plunge into the scrub, and climb upwards once more. The soil in these scrubs is a deep volcanic red, of great richness, eminently suitable for agricultural purposes. Anyone bent on sport will here find flock and wonga pigeons and scrub turkeys, the curious humus towers which the latter build being constantly met with. The summit of Mowbullan is a gigantic emerald, treeless mound, with outcrops of black basalt—a mountain billow towering in might above its fellows. Indeed, standing on Mowbullan, with the grey eagles wheeling slowly far above, the keen mountain air beating on your cheek, and the panorama of two great pastoral districts spreading in flowing purple on either hand, the mind is invested with the mystery of a grey antiquity older than all the castled heights and verdure-clad valleys of historic Europe. The bold green summit

of the mountain rises out of a girdle of magnificent forest, rich with variegated foliage, rimmed with a belt of yellow wattle, behind which, in huge masses and serried lines, the great bunya-trees stand like a vast concourse of cowlèd monks or some titanic army that in silence mourns around the sepulchre of its fallen god. Here, from time immemorial, whilst the time of empire ebbed and flowed afar, the dusky millions of a primitive people have come and gone, unknown, unheeded. Here, they were wont to hold their feasts and festivals when the bunya-trees were heavy with harvest. On many of these huge trees, 15 and 20 feet in circumference, you can still find traces of steps cut by generations long since passed away.

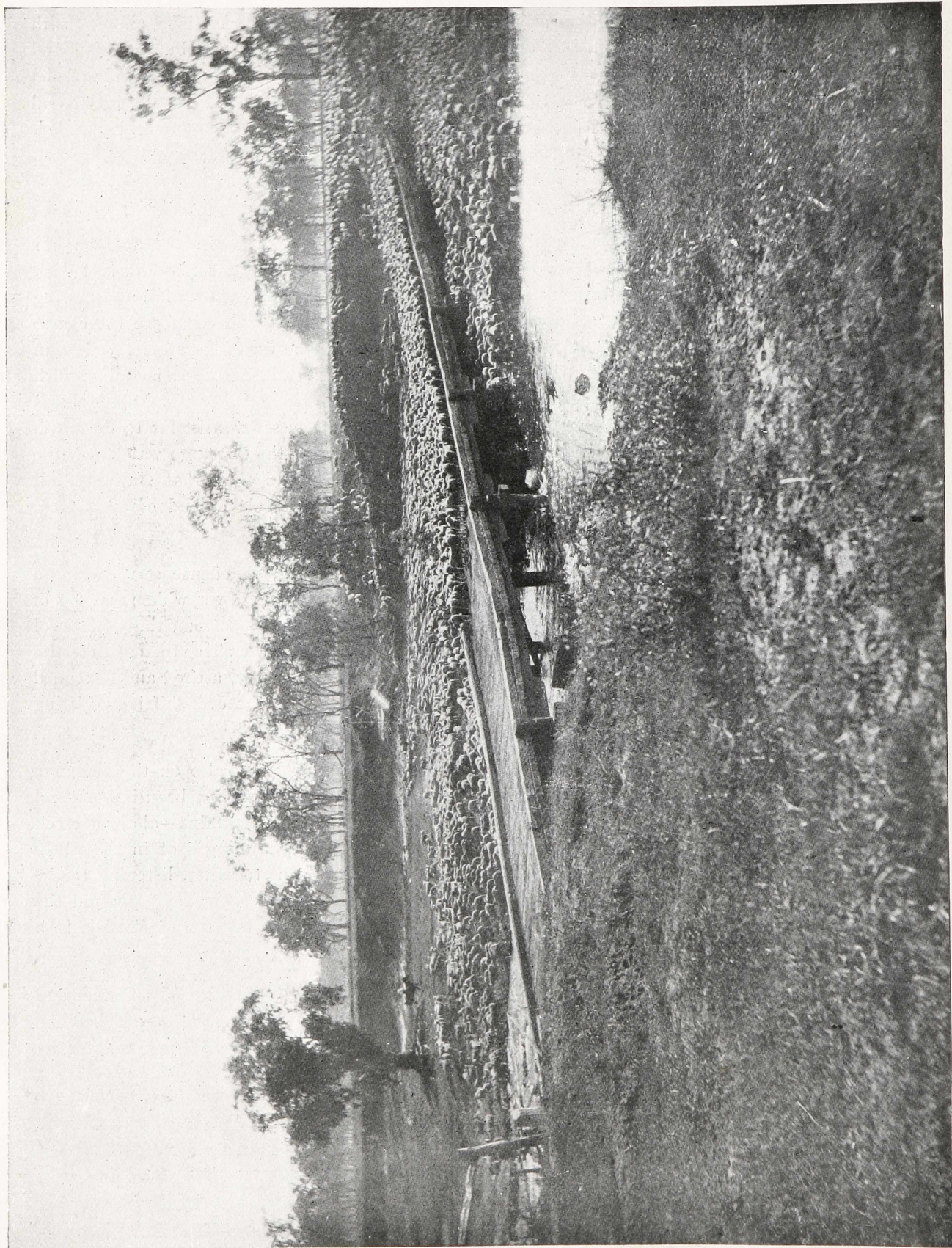
The range itself runs south-east and north-west, and the eye can sweep the horizon for 40 miles on four sides. Looking over the Darling Downs watershed, past the serried lines of dark forest below you, the bold heads and rough shoulders of the hills sink away in steep fall and flowing line to the low wooded levels beneath. By the dark foliage of the belar you can trace the course of six or eight tributary creeks winding on their way to the Condamine, whilst afar, yellow in the sun, stretch the plains of Jimbour. That cluster of silver dots in mid-landscape is Dalby, with the open forest behind it and the wide levels of Cecil Plains beyond. Those dim blue phantom clouds floating above the Jondaryan prairies are Mount Moriah and Mount Russell, whilst far to the south rises Gowrie Mountain, with the plains that gird its base. Turning to the Nanango watershed, the scene changes to a tumultuous expanse of densely wooded summits and vales that sink and fall like the unresting sea. The light and shadow-play on them is wonderful: a land of cool, deep, purple hollows and rugged gold-smitten mountain crests.

One of the grandest waterfalls is on the Nanango side. Here, the dense scrub forms a semi-circle round a steep emerald grassy slope, which terminates abruptly in a wide precipice of black basalt, falling sheer 400 feet into an immense gorge. Seen from the bottom, the scene is of weird and impressive beauty. Above you, the huge grey walls over which the silver torrent takes its singing leap; the steep densely wooded heights on either hand; the tall trees, arched and festooned with vine and creeper; the huge grey boulders and deep pellucid pools; the ever-shifting, drifting spray cloud, like silver smoke, with a rainbow playing in its heart.

Even more picturesque, if less grand, are the little Manchester Falls, also on the Nanango side, and approached from Mount Mowbullán by a scrub belt leading through a beautiful natural meadow—these lovely meadows are scattered all over these remarkable mountains—along a creek fringed with a perfect forest of tree ferns. Perhaps this is the most charming spot in the whole range, for, opposite the little fall, the heads of two giant trees have leant together, listening to the music of the water beneath, and the vines have climbed them, and the creepers have followed the vines and made natural arches and festoons above the silver filigree of spray, and framed it in a setting of fairy beauty.

But one could write a book on the Bunya Mountains without exhausting the theme, and space is pressing. Let us leave them with the memory of a region of wide spaces, rugged heights, cool purple shadows, clear mountain streams, and pure air, where the brain-weary toiler may realise the mood of the great poet who wrote:—

And there arrives a lull in the hot race
Wherein man doth forever chase
That fleeting and elusive shadow, Rest,
An air of coolness plays upon his face,
And an unwonted calm pervades his breast.
And then he thinks he knows
The hills where his life rose,
And the sea where it goes.



TRAVELLING SHEEP.

CECIL PLAINS.

These immense plains, the property of the Taylor Estates Company, and comprising about 130,000 acres, still retaining the blue, oat, and other of the old indigenous grasses, are held by experts to be absolutely the finest sheep country on the Downs. The climate is more even, the country more heavily grassed, than the eastern side, and contains some elements in the soil—principally potash—which tend to make the sheep grow healthy, large-framed, and lusty, and the wool strong. These lands are as well-favoured by Nature for fattening stock as for growing wool. Sheep from inferior country build up very rapidly, and a marked improvement is noticeable in the wool after they have been a few months on these pastures.

Situated about 25 miles south of Dalby, the post town, 30 miles from Jondaryan, the outlet for the wool, and 50 miles west of Toowoomba, the Cecil Plains head station is built on a high bank sloping down to a fine sweeping bend of the Condamine. Across the river, about a mile away, is the woolshed—one of the largest in the district—close to an extensive lily-covered lagoon, the haunt of innumerable wild fowl, who build their nests on the picturesque island in its centre.



ROUNDED UP.

Undoubtedly there is a great charm about Cecil Plains: the atmosphere of the old careless squatting days, when a few of the sheep kings held the whole country side in their hands from Jondowae to the head of the Condamine.

The land is still as Nature made it: the wild birds almost undisturbed. You will see more game there in a day than you will anywhere else on the Downs in a month. The Condamine is full of wild fowl, waterhens, teal, and duck; its waterholes team with cod, bream, and jewfish. Along the bends of the rivers you come across many beautiful scenes of wild life set in park-like scenery. Out of some of the river reaches rise huge half-submerged blocks of white sandstone and limestone in weird disorder. A turtle floats to the surface, and, rearing his ridiculous head, looks slowly round ere he dives again; a platypus slides with lightning speed out of sight; stately black and white herons, chattering magpies, white ibis and clouds of twittering budgeregahs line the banks. On the plains are turkeys, quail, and hares; in the scrub, squatter and bronze-wing pigeons.

Here you can feel, as you can feel in no other part of the Downs, the charm of the bush as it lays a cool hand on your heart, and all the joy and freedom of being face to face with Nature.



MARES AND FOALS, CECIL PLAINS.

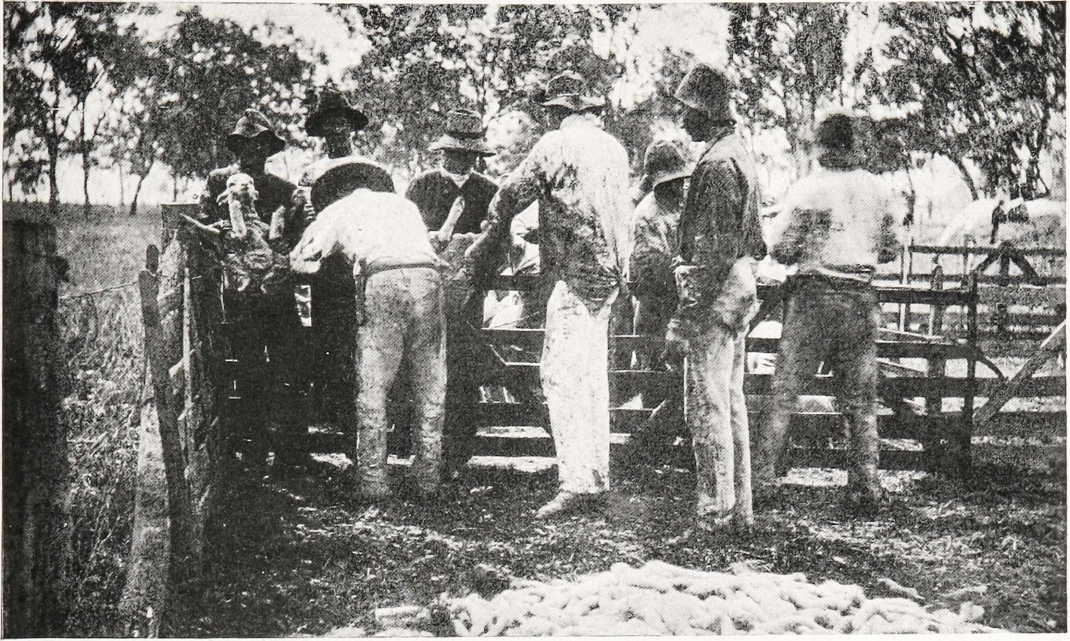
The estate is watered by the Condamine, which runs through its whole length for 15 miles, and divides the plain country from the timber, of which there is 30,000 acres. The south-eastern portion is watered by the North Branch Creek.



WINTER LAMBS.

There is no cultivation carried on, but thousands of acres of wheat could be grown in this country at very slight cost, and no doubt the day will come when all Cecil Plains and Jondaryan—

a combined area of 270,000 acres, capable of supporting more than the present population of the whole Downs—will be a succession of huge wheat farms and lucerne paddocks. At present they carry a handful of people and a few hundred thousand sheep. The Cecil Plains Estate shears on an

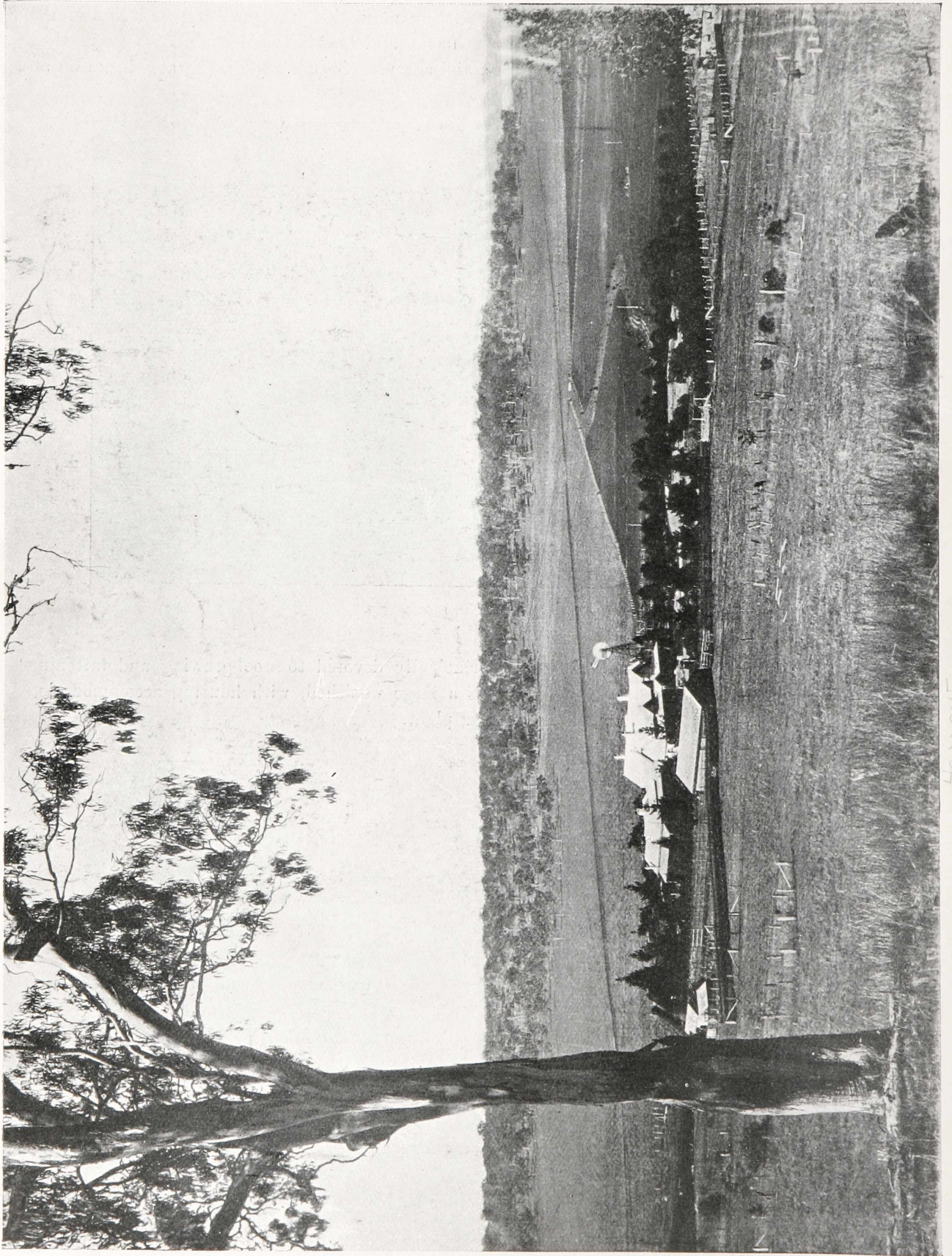


LAMB MARKING.

average about 100,000 sheep annually, and is principally devoted to wool-growing and fattening store wethers for the Brisbane markets. There is a large woolshed, with housing accommodation for 2,500 sheep, and an up-to-date machine-shearing plant.



STACK BUILDING, CENTRAL DARLING DOWNS.

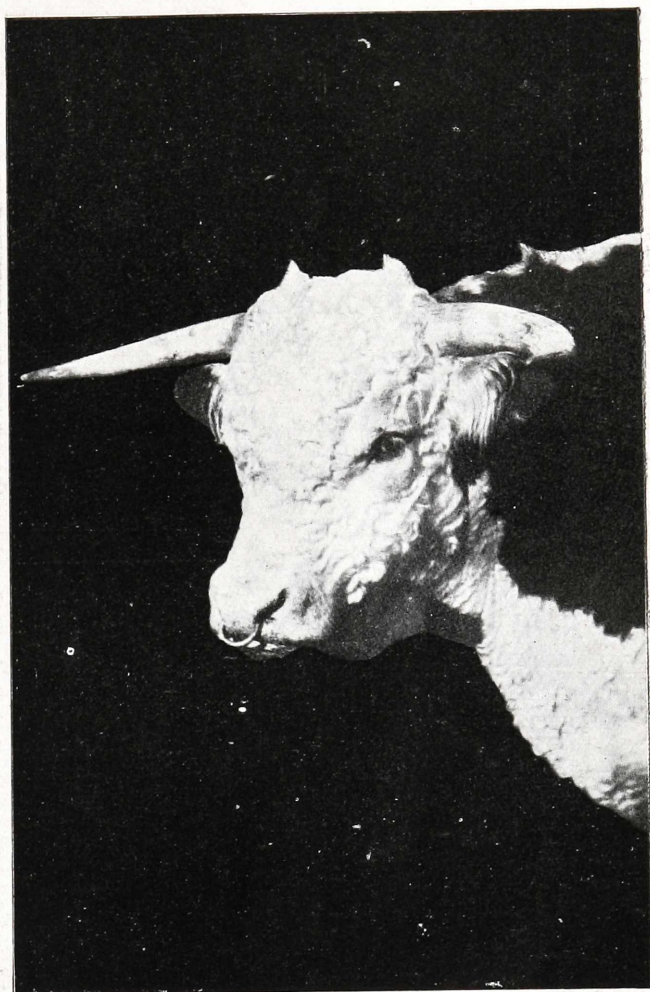


Harrold
GOWRIE: A TYPICAL DOWNS HOMESTEAD.

GOWRIE.

HAVING now finished with the Northern Downs, let us retrace our steps to Gowrie. What was once Gowrie Estate is now a mass of small settlement. The old head station itself is 12 miles distant from Toowoomba. The homestead is unique in situation, being close to Gowrie Mountain, a square mass, the crater of an extinct volcano, and a landmark that can be seen miles away. The Western Railway line intersects the farms for 9 miles, and the Southern and Western Railway runs near. The Gowrie lands comprise nearly 44,000 acres of magnificent agricultural land, chiefly black and brown soil plains, lightly timbered apple-tree flats, and ridges timbered partly with box and apple tree and partly with ironbark. The soil varies from 3 feet to 40 feet in depth, and the farms are watered by Gowrie, Oakey, Cooby, Gomoron, Little Gomoron, Doctor's Creek, and Dry Creek. There are numerous windmills, water being obtained at a depth varying from 18 feet to 130 feet. A great number of fossil remains of extinct animals have been found on Gowrie. The annual rainfall varies from 27 inches to 30 inches. At Kingsthorpe is a small township created by the cutting up of the estate. It consists of a couple of stores, hotels, and other shops. A bank is to be erected shortly. The railway from Kingsthorpe to Goombungee is to be continued to junction with the northern line at Kingaroy. This will tap the rich timber country between the two places, besides opening up a large tract of dairying land.

The line will pass through thickly settled country from Kingsthorpe to the top of the Range, the produce from which, added to the timber traffic, should make this line very profitable. There is a good colliery at Gowrie—or, rather, Kingsthorpe—which supplies coal to the Queensland railways and elsewhere.



HEREFORD BULL.

THE REPURCHASED ESTATES.

SINCE the introduction of "*The Agricultural Lands Purchase Act of 1894*," the Government has purchased for settlement thirteen estates and portions on the Darling Downs. These comprise—Westbrook, 9,886 acres; Clifton (No. 1), 9,208 acres; Headington Hill, 36,702 acres; Pinelands,



STACKING WHEAT.

3,603 acres; Clifton (Nos. 2 and 3), 8,389 acres; Beauaraba, 8,120 acres; Mount Russell, 45,144 acres; Gowrie, 43,958 acres; Glengallan (No. 1), 6,301 acres; North Toolburra, 10,983 acres; Glengallan (No. 2), 9,116 acres; Goomburra, 13,120 acres; and Glengallan (No. 3), 21,653 acres. This makes a total of 226,183 acres—or, counting the odd roods and perches, 226,188 acres—which was formerly only used for grazing.



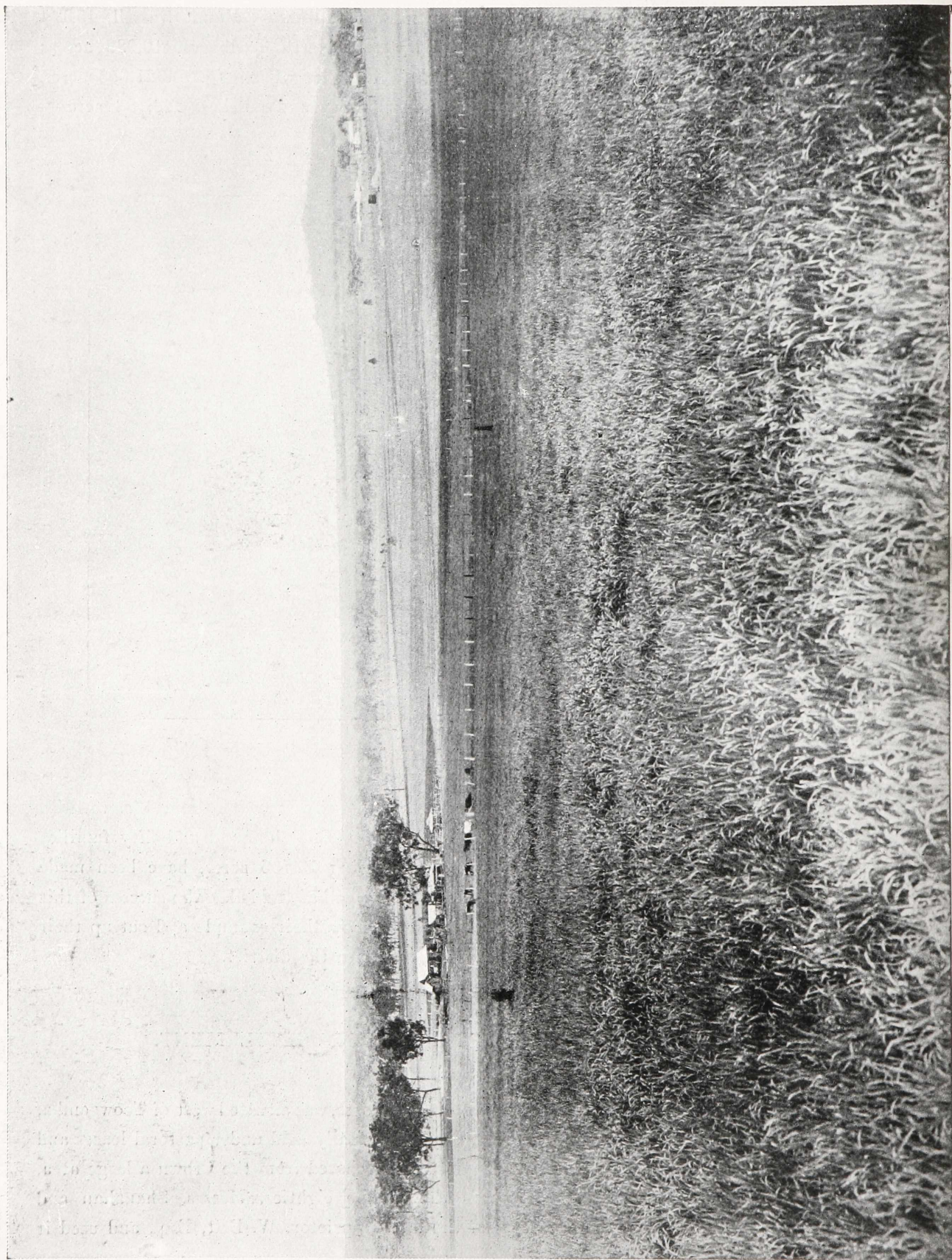
SHROPSHIRE.

All this land was eagerly sought after and taken up at prices varying from 15s. to £12, or an average price of about £3 per acre over the whole area. One thousand and fifty families have now been settled on it, and ninety-seven farms, comprising 13,736 acres, have been made freehold. Much of it has been resubdivided and sold, and the price has trebled. The success of this policy of the Government has caused large private owners to follow their example and cut up their estates, and has, by close settlement, stimulated every industry in the district.

SUBDIVISION OF PRIVATE ESTATES FOR SETTLEMENT.

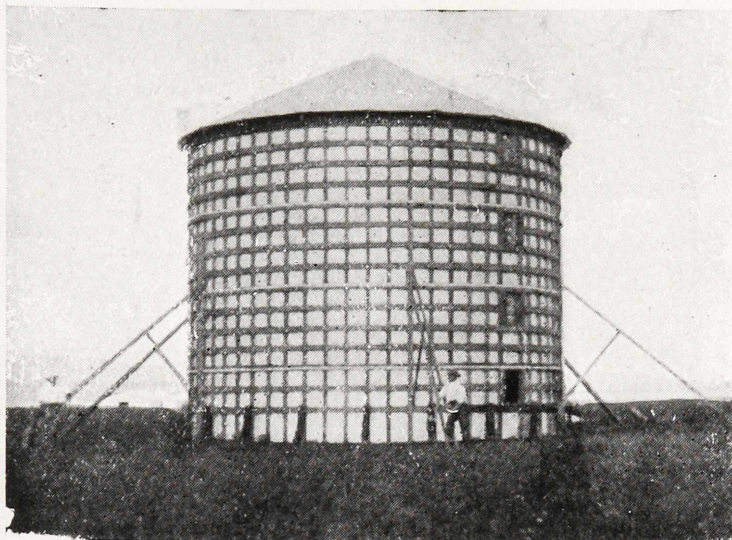
WESTBROOK.

THIS extensive estate, at one time solely devoted to pastoral purposes, was situated west of Toowoomba, and approached at one point to within 6 miles of the city. Originally held under pastoral leases and changing hands at various periods, the different proprietors purchased from the Crown a large area, eventually totalling about 88,000 acres. Towards the middle eighties, Messrs. Shanahan and Jennings purchased the estate from the executors of the late proprietor, W. Beit, Esq., and used it for grazing purposes.



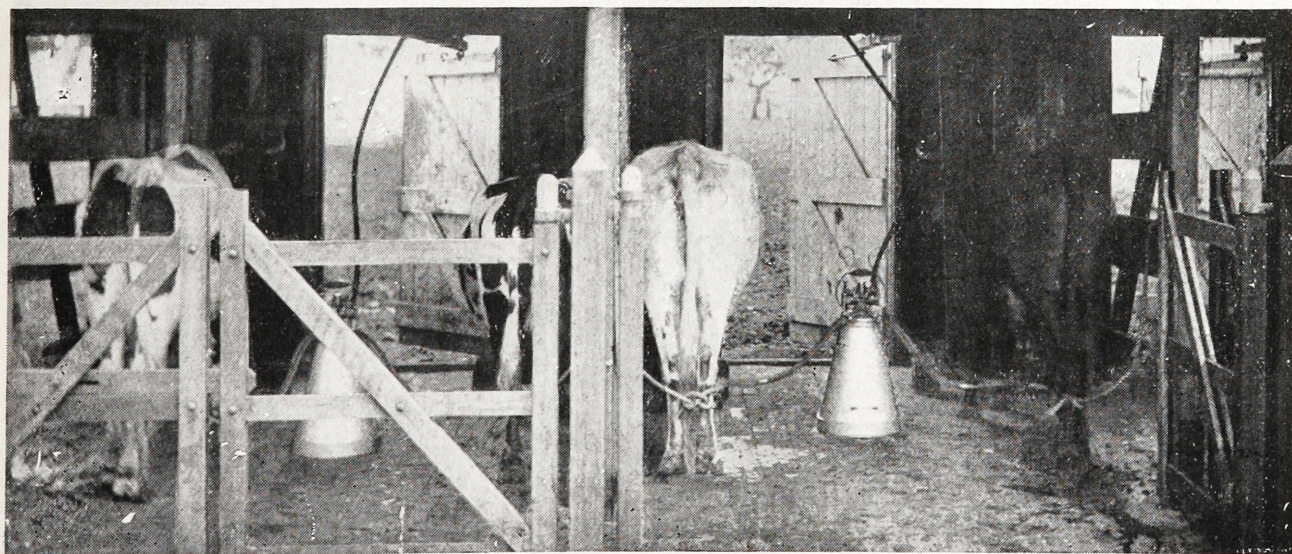
TYPICAL FARMING LAND.

About 1892 a large portion of the property was offered for sale as farms, but did not at that time readily find purchasers. Eventually some of it was sold. In 1893 the Government, under the Agricultural Lands Repurchase Act, took over 9,886 acres, which was offered as farms at prices from 15s. to £3 15s. per acre in areas from 18 acres up to 240 acres, with twenty years' time payment, bearing interest at 5 per cent. In a very short time all this resumed land was

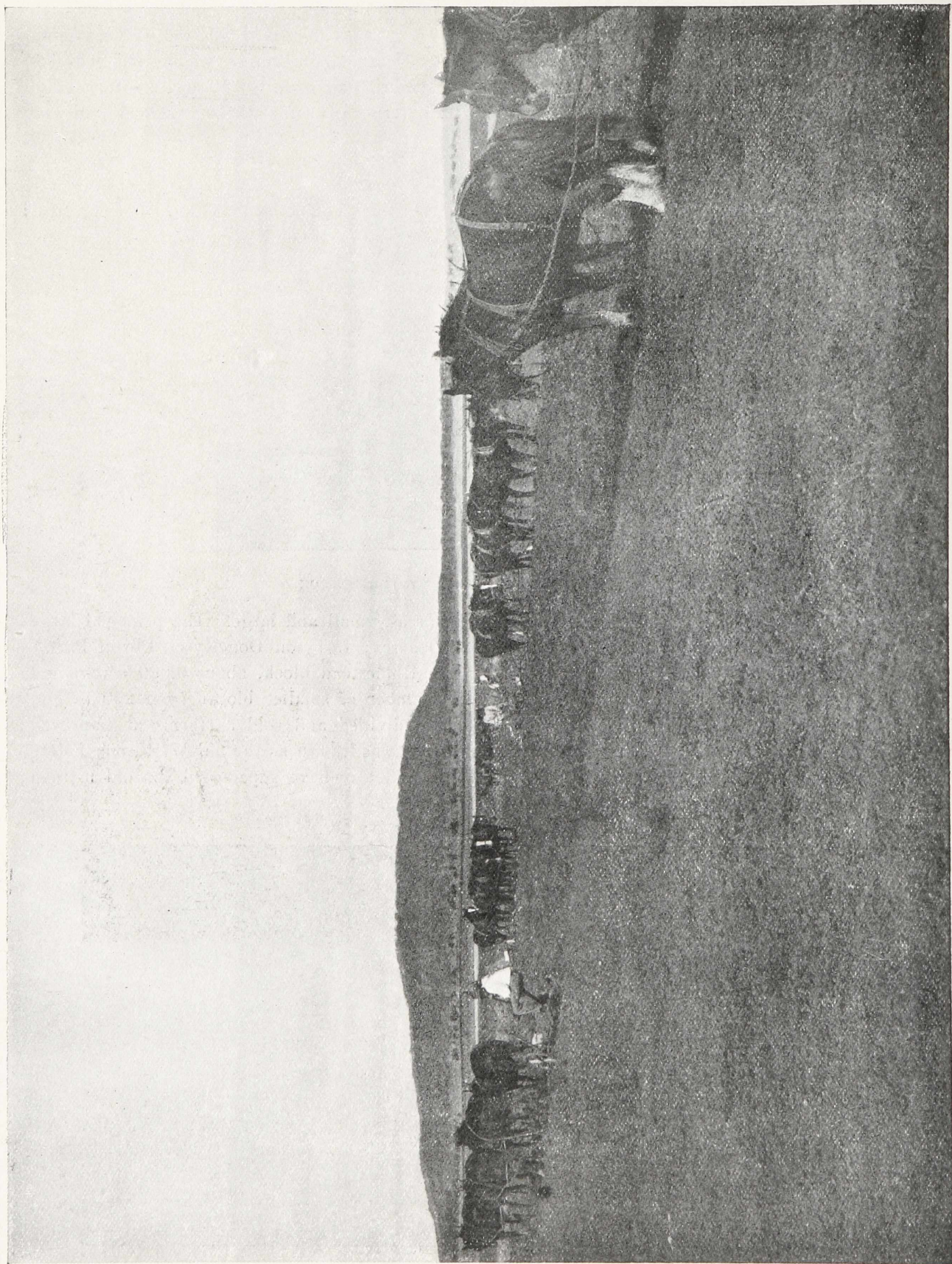


SILLO ON E. J. METCALFE'S PROPERTY, WESTBROOK.

sold. The balance of the estate was sold privately in areas, small and large. The principal large holdings are Messrs. Beale's "Mokoia," of about 3,000 acres; J. Tyson Doneley's "Devon Park," 10,000 acres; Messrs. Couper and Ralston's Westbrook Homestead block, about 9,000 acres; and Mr. C. Roberts' "Croxley," about 4,000 acres, and a number of smaller blocks from 250 to 800 acres. Some of the larger subdivisions are being resubdivided and sold as farms at improved values from £5 to £10 per acre, and on the whole of what was known as the old Westbrook Estate dairy farms, sheep and cattle raising, and agriculture generally have superseded the old method of pastoral grazing.



MILKING COWS BY MACHINERY AT CANON PUGHE'S FARM, WESTBROOK.

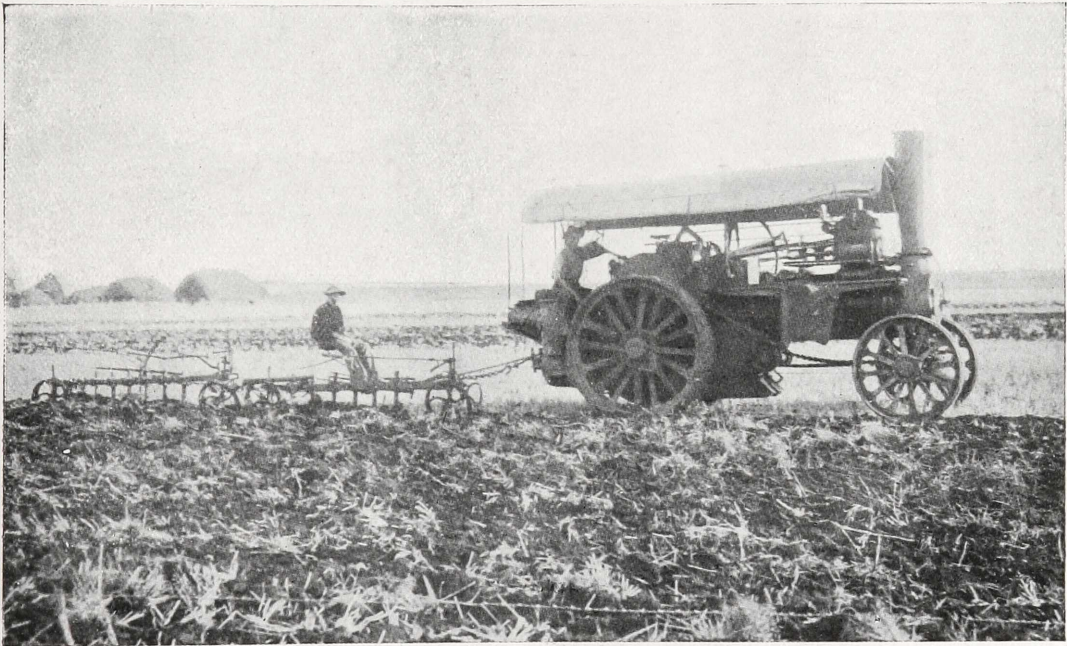


PLOUGHING WITH FIVE TEAMS.

ETONVALE AND HARROW ESTATES.

These large estates were situated south of Toowoomba, the nearest point being about 7 miles. Originally a large grazing run, Messrs. Hodgson and Watt purchased areas amounting to about 64,000 acres from the Crown. A change of ownership took place, Mr. Watt retiring from the firm and Mr. Ramsay filling his place, the estate being known at this time as Etonvale. Some ten or twelve years ago a division of the estate was made, Mr. Hodgson retaining the eastern portion and Mr. Ramsay the western portion of the land, the latter portion being called Harrow. About five years ago the Etonvale portion, of about 30,000 acres, was purchased by a syndicate, and divided into farms, and the whole of these have now been sold in areas ranging from 45 to 1,000 acres. The homestead with about 4,000 acres was sold to Mr. C. Barth. The prices for this portion of the estate varied from £2 5s. to £12 per acre, a term of years being allowed for payment.

The Harrow division, of about 34,000 acres, has also been subdivided, Mr. Ramsay retaining the homestead and 10,000 acres. Of the 24,000 acres offered as farms, but few, if any, now remain unsold. The prices paid vary from £4 15s. to £10 per acre. Of the whole original 64,000 acres of the original Etonvale, only 10,000 remain as a grazing property. All the portions sold are occupied by farmers engaged in dairying, wheat-growing, lamb-raising, and other agricultural interests.



STEAM PLOUGHING, TWELVE FURROWS.

WESTBROOK EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

THE State Agricultural Farm at Westbrook is situated $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Westbrook Crossing, on the Southern and Western Railway, and about 9 miles south-west of Toowoomba. The site is on a ridge at the western foot of Bunker's Hill, and the land slopes gently north and south, with Westbrook Creek watering the paddocks. It comprises 430 acres, on part of which the Government Reformatory for Boys has been erected, and a portion of the land is farmed by this institution.

It is worked now chiefly as a fruit farm and for experimenting with grasses, fodders, and minor crops requiring intense culture. Prunes, plums, peaches, apricots, pears, apples, quinces, figs, olives, walnuts, almonds, &c., are all grown here. Considerable varieties of grapes have been



WHEAT EARS GROWN LOCALLY.

imported from European countries and tested under new climatic conditions. The proved varieties have been sent all over Queensland. A system of dwarfing fruit trees to obtain better results has been adopted. Every sort of farming implement is kept, so that, as the farm is run purely in the interests of agriculture, the surrounding settlers have an object lesson continually before their eyes.

PITTSWORTH AND DISTRICT.

PITTSWORTH is a rapidly increasing township, 25 miles by road and 36 miles by rail west of Toowoomba and the Main Range, and is about the most central spot of the fertile plains called the Darling Downs. Some twenty-five years ago it formed part of Felton sheep run. The surrounding lands when thrown open were eagerly selected. Black soil plains surround it, except to the north and north-west, which consists of a succession of low cultivated ridges, and is extremely fertile scrub soil. These cleared scrub lands, which are really the backbone of Pittsworth, extend over an area of about 10 square miles, and join the well-known properties of Brookstead (12,000 acres, now being subdivided and sold), Balgownie, the Mount Russell farms, Jondaryan, Cecil Plains, and St. Helens. This scrub, in the last twenty-two years or so, has all been turned into private holdings

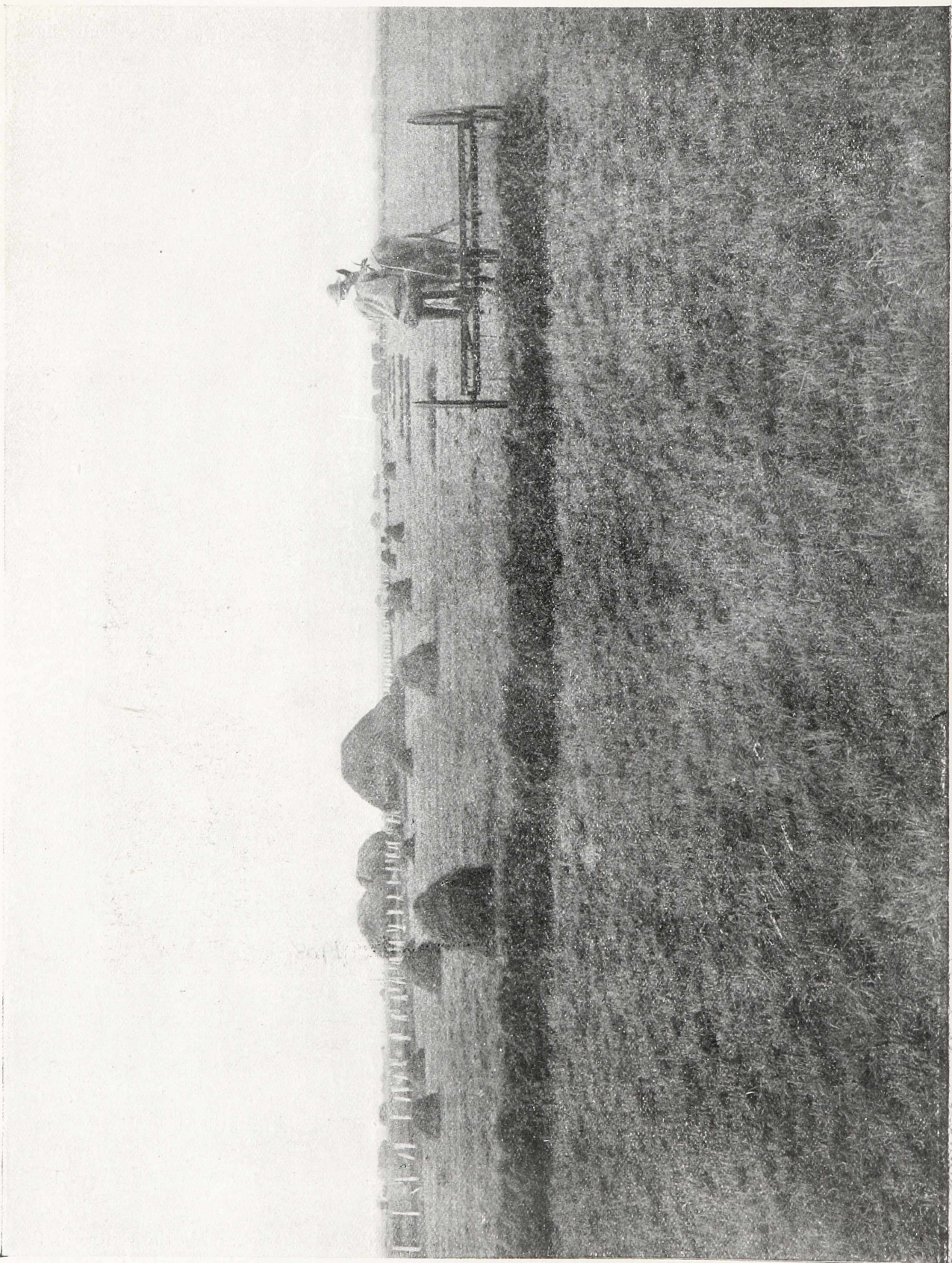


STREET SCENE, PITTSWORTH.

1908

and farmed, although in its primeval condition it was so dense that the settlers had to clear the sites of their dwellings. It was originally acquired at 2s. 6d. per acre, and is now worth pounds per acre, and the men who selected it have become a most prosperous class. Water can be obtained at easy depths in any part of the scrub. Anyone standing on the veranda of one of the selector's homesteads, looking northwards, can see how very clearly is defined the different characters of the country—all the slopes of the ridges being densely timbered, whilst northwards it is all plain, and you can travel in an unbroken stretch from the edge of the scrub to Dalby without passing under the shade of a tree. On Beauaraba, some of the lands have changed hands on lease at a very high advance on the price paid on selection.

The township of Pittsworth, which has quadrupled in the last few years, is the centre of the farming settlements of Southbrook, Umbirom, Broxburn, Beauaraba, and Motley Scrubs, Gentleman's



BAKING LUCERNE HAY.

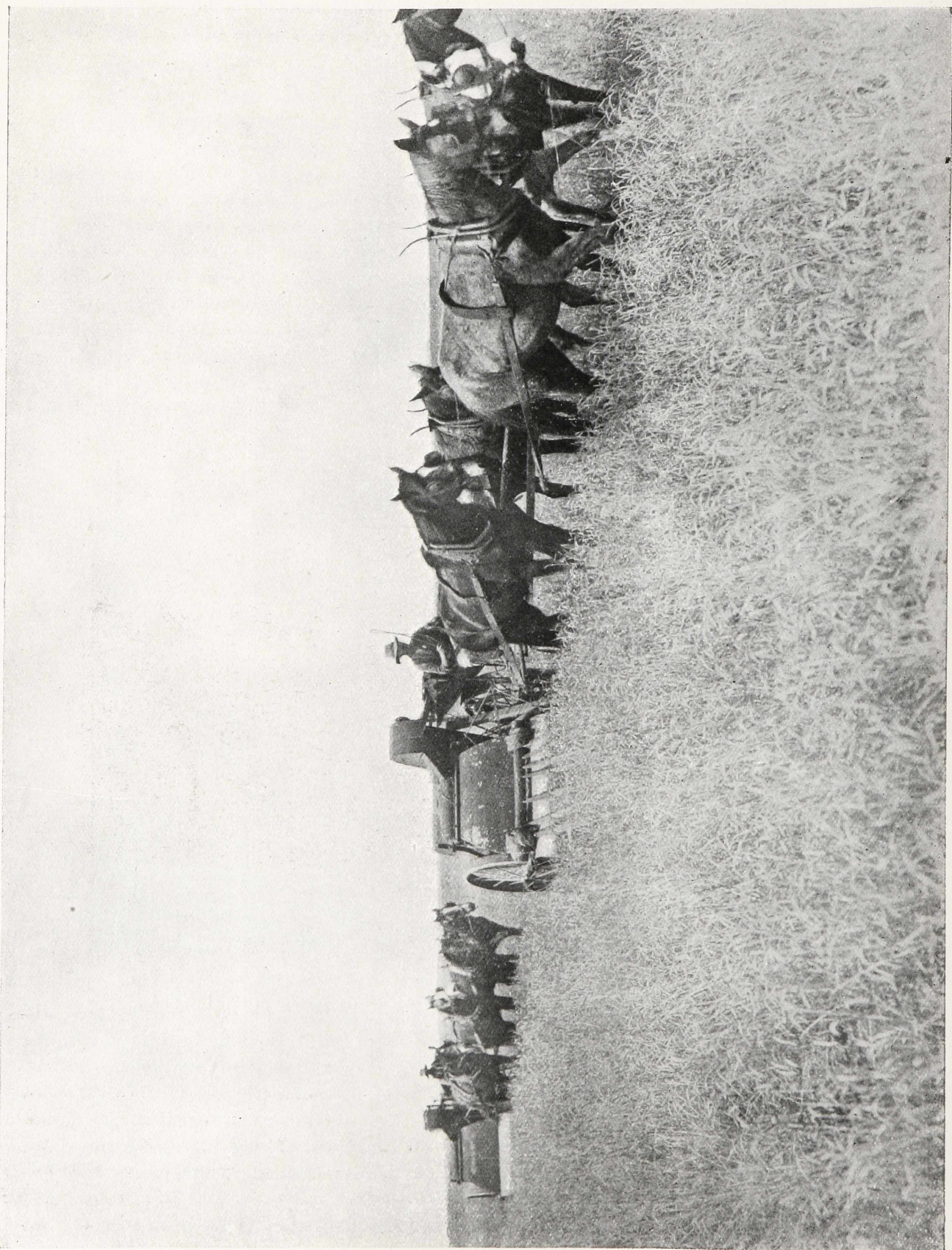
Seat, North Branch, Kincora, the Hermitage, &c., which are chiefly devoted to dairying, pig-raising, wheat, maize, and lucerne growing. There are five cheese and butter factories in the district.

The Pittsworth Co-operative Dairy Company does a large business. This is the only factory on the Downs that manufactures both cheese and butter. Eleven years ago its milk supply was only 30 gallons a day, and cheese-making proceeded on alternate days on 60 gallons of milk. Now the average daily milk supply is 1,700 gallons, and the output of butter 6 tons and sometimes 8 tons per week. At the height of the season last year the milk supply was 2,000 gallons per day, and this year is expected to reach 2,500 gallons per day. Milk prices averaged $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon, and some farmers averaged £1 5s. to £1 10s. per cow per month. A few with extra good cows and plentiful feed made even more during the more favourable months. The wool from Yandilla, Kurrowah, Condamine Plains, Brookstead, Lemon Tree, Pine Creek, Tandawanna, Brookfield, Kyawonna, Yarrandine, Porter's, St. Helens, North Branch, Western Creek, as well as from numerous small selections, is railed from here to Brisbane. Wool from the stations around Goondiwindi also came in here; but the line from Inglewood to Goondiwindi, which is nearing completion, will shortly carry it. Coal is to be found pretty well throughout the district. Large quantities of chaff, maize, wheat, and other products are also raised. There is an excellent flour mill working all the year round.



PITTSWORTH CHEESE FACTORY.

The town is solvent and progressive. Being entirely surrounded by fertile lands, its prosperity is solid, and its future is a bright one. A few years ago it consisted of three hotels, one saddler's and blacksmith's shop, three or four private dwellings, and one Provisional school of twenty scholars with one teacher. To-day it consists of seven hotels, Court House, Police Barracks, Post and Telegraph Office, four churches, three banks, some forty-five stores and shops, several factories, and numerous private residences. A grain shed, capable of storing 10,000 bags of wheat, has been erected by the Government. The roll call at the State school, which was twenty with one teacher, is now over 240 with five teachers. The district, in all, contains seven State schools and eight Provisional schools, with an increasing attendance. The population of the town is 2,000, and of the census district 11,000.



COMPLETE HARVESTERS AT WORK.

The building trade is very brisk, and three sawmills cannot keep up with the demand. The rush for land continues unabated. Good farms are readily sought after, whilst building sites of all descriptions are snapped up eagerly when offered. At a Government land sale twenty years ago, a 36-perch allotment fetched £20, and is now worth £500. Another allotment purchased at the same time for £15 was sold for £600 a year ago. Town lands have increased 50 per cent. in the last five years. Little, if any, Government land now remains to be sold, and to meet the necessary demand for building sites several private estates have been cut up. As each year goes by, more large holdings are being divided and subdivided with great advantage.

At present the means for the disposal of stock and produce at Pittsworth is as good as can be obtained anywhere on the Downs. Six years ago there was only one sale a month, chiefly of sheep. Now regular stock sales, principally of dairy cattle and pigs, are held weekly. One local firm disposed of nearly 6,000 pigs in 1906. Fat pigs averaged from £2 to £3 in September, 1907. Two Brisbane bacon-curing firms have local representatives, who truck pigs regularly, on an average 120 per week. At a recent sale of dairy stock 100 cows sold from £5 10s. to £16, averaging £7 10s. per head.



REAPERS AND BINDERS.

To judge of the progress of the place, it is only necessary to state that, beyond a score of years after other sections of the Downs had established agricultural settlements and attracted experienced farmers, this locality was yet under sheep. And when occupation took place the occupants were almost entirely carriers and station hands or shearers, who, though having selected the finest land available, took little or no interest in cultivation, but continued to follow their early employments.

The old system of haphazard tillage is now altered to thorough cultivation with the best improved American and English farming implements. The area of cultivation is increasing annually, and the country is covered with substantial homesteads, wheat and barley paddocks, dairy farms and orchards. Eighteen years ago the whole wheat crop of the Pittsworth district was under 10 bushels of a common red wheat, which was brought into town by a farmer's dray. To-day there are a dozen steam threshing plants besides a great number of harvesters and strippers in the district, and about 30,000 acres under cultivation, 20,000 of which is in wheat and barley.

Twelve years or so ago the butter and cheese factory system was, if not unknown, in its infancy. To-day milk is the main support of thousands of families. As an instance of the profits to be made in dairying, it may be stated that recently three farmers with holdings of from 320 to 400 acres received £50, £52, and £54 for one month's milk. The Ayrshires are a particularly fine class of cows in this district—these herds are without doubt some of the best in Queensland. One local dairyman swept the board at the Brisbane and Toowoomba Exhibitions, taking the championship and all the principal prizes for Ayrshires.

The extraordinary development caused by the Government policy of purchasing large estates and cutting them up for close settlement—which policy has been adopted by many owners of large private properties—is very manifest about Pittsworth. The Pittsworth-Toowoomba Railway passes through Harrow—a magnificent tract of agricultural land—all of which has now been cut up into farms and sold privately, except a few thousand acres round the old head station, which the proprietors have retained for their own use. On every side the land can be seen going under the plough, and the amount of new homesteads which have arisen on all sides is astonishing. All this has been

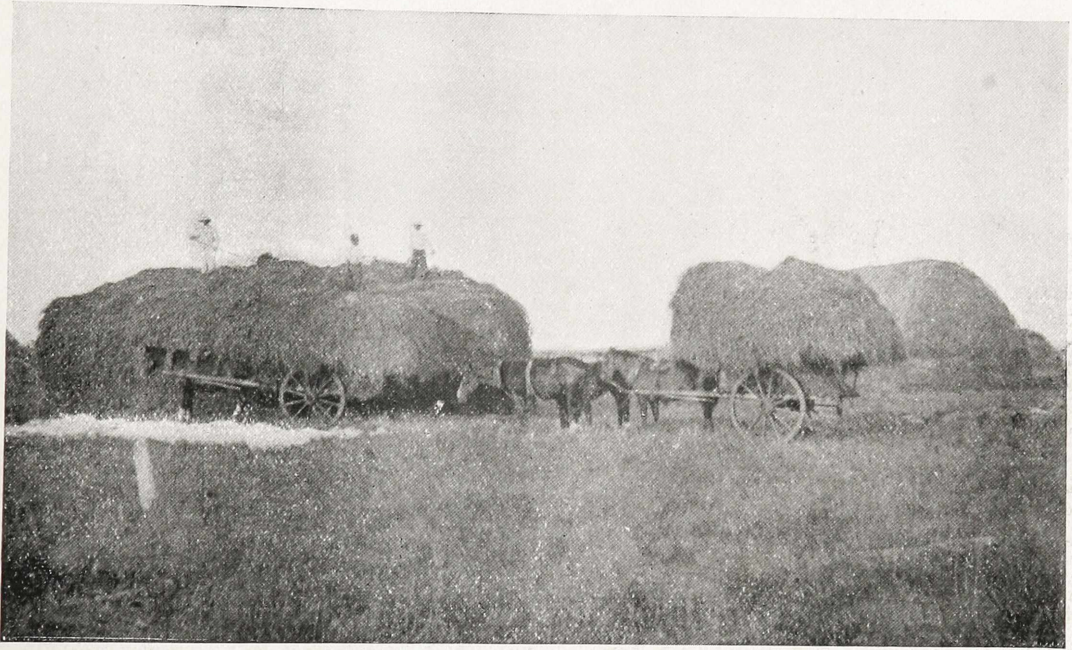


A MAIZE CROP.

accomplished in less than two years. About four years ago the Government purchased and cut up Mount Russell Estate, of about 45,000 acres. Every acre of it was taken up in small holdings, and it is now a most prosperous settlement, devoted to dairying, lamb-raising, sheep-fattening, and wheat-growing. There was not a single residence on it when it was subdivided for selection, and now it is dotted with homesteads and possesses a school and two churches. A co-operative cheese factory is also contemplated. The branch line to Pittsworth diverges from the main Southern and Western Railway at Wyreema, where there is a condensed milk factory turning out an excellent tinned product. At Southbrook, 19 miles by road and 30 miles by rail from Toowoomba, there are two cheese factories, and a co-operative cheese factory is also in contemplation. There are two schools, a bank, schools of arts, hotel, and stores. The farms run from 80 to 400 acres, chiefly devoted to dairying. Broxburn, a very prolific dairying district, is a few miles further on. Farms here run from 80 to 640 acres. Through all these districts and around Pittsworth agricultural land has advanced in value 20 per cent. in the last ten to twelve years. Of late years there has been

a considerable number of new settlers from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand. Numerous private estates around Pittsworth are now being subdivided and sold. Brookstead, the property of Mr. J. T. Doneley, situated $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the township and comprising 12,000 acres, is being disposed of rapidly at time of writing. St. Ronan's, an out-station of Yandilla, containing 30,000 acres, and adjoining Brookstead, is finding ready purchasers, one New Zealander taking 2,000 acres in one block. Of St. Helens, 16,000 acres, distant 7 miles north-west from Pittsworth, 700 acres has been sold. It is all good dairying country, chiefly open plain with patches of good scrub land.

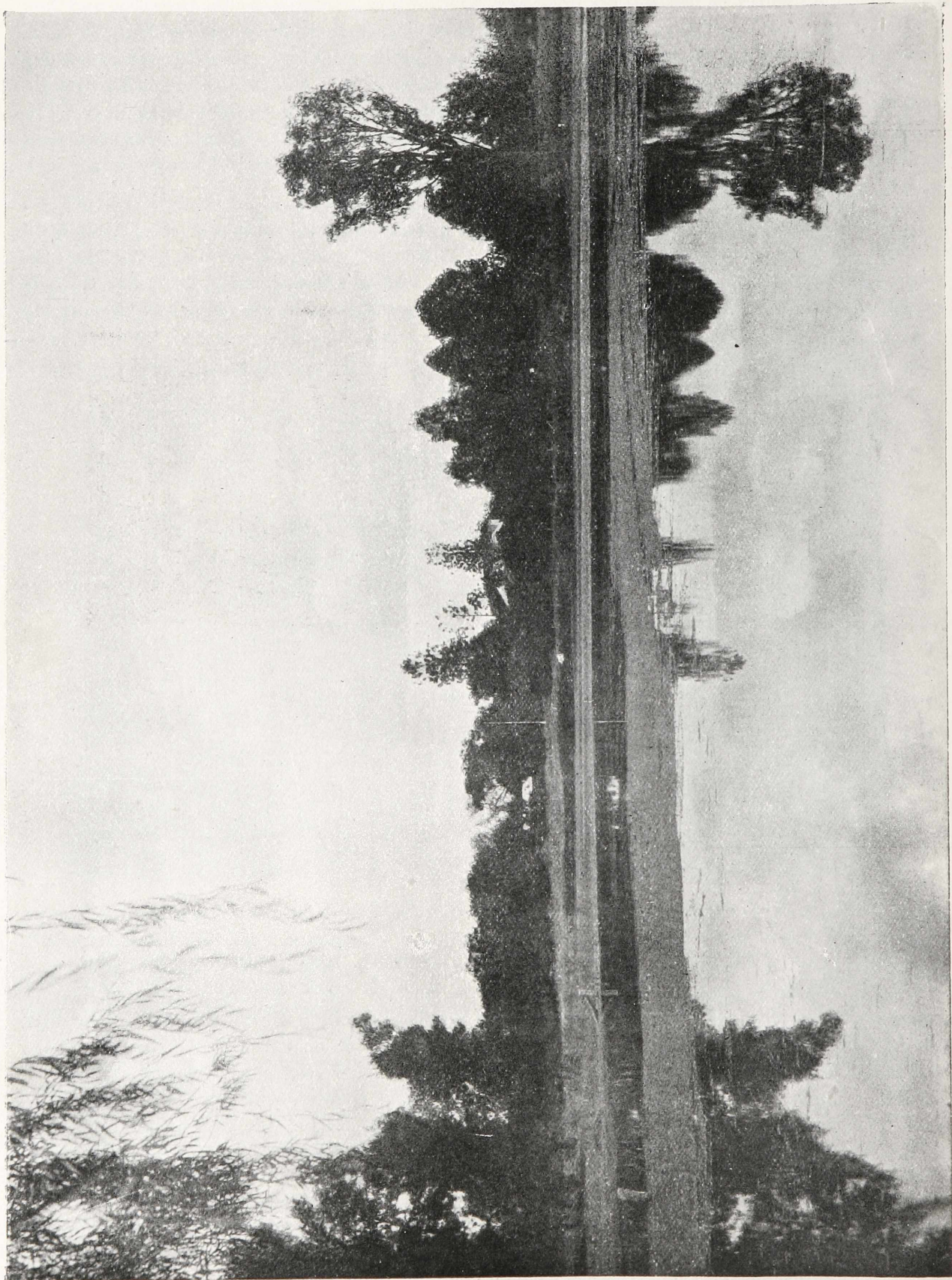
Felton, containing about 45,000 acres, and situated 5 miles south-east of Pittsworth, is probably the best property on the Downs for close settlement, and it is to be hoped that the proprietors may shortly subdivide it. It contains good timber and shelter for stock, and splendid valleys and flats for lucerne. Water is obtainable at easy depths. In the opinion of experts, the



STACKING LUCERNE.

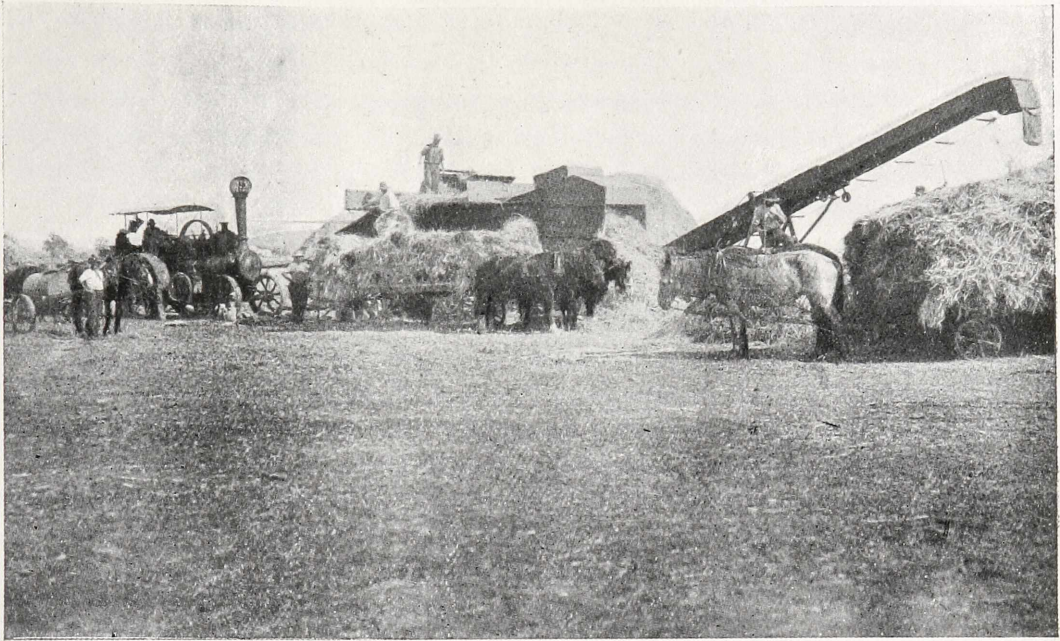
whole of this land is exceptionally valuable for dairying on small holdings. Avondale, 2,100 acres, 4 miles south-west of the township, is also a good property. Balgownie, adjoining Felton, is a well-known sheep run noted for the fineness of its wool. At North Branch, about 8 miles south from Pittsworth, the farms range from 640 to 3,000 acres, and are chiefly devoted to sheep and maize-growing. At Kincora, 10 miles south-west of the township, between North Branch and Yandilla, dairying and sheep-raising are carried on. The sheep selections on Grass Tree Creek vary from 500 to 5,000 acres. Portion of Tumnaville has been cut up for settlement. The huge estate of Yandilla lies west of Pittsworth. This magnificent tract of country, which has an inexhaustible supply of subterranean water at easy depths beneath its rich soil, is probably destined to also become the home of a close population.

There is a large area of first-class agricultural land at Millmerran. The little settlement is about 30 miles from Pittsworth, the holdings varying from 160 to 640 acres. About 11,000 bushels of wheat, 50 tons cheese, and 400 bales of wool were produced here in 1906. It is probable that the railway will be extended to it. A cheese factory has been working in the locality for about three



YANDILLA STATION.

years. The resumed portion of Western Creek, recently opened by the Government in areas of from 160 to 640 acres, has all been selected. Kooroongarra, 20 miles south-west of Millmerran, is particularly suited for wheat-growing, owing to its light friable soil. A cheese factory has been working there for some years. A co-operative factory has been more recently established.



THRESHING WHEAT.

YANDILLA.

YANDILLA, the property of Messrs. W. F. Gore and Co., Ltd., is situated about 45 miles south-west of Toowoomba and 21 miles from Pittsworth, with which it is connected by a bi-weekly coach. It comprises, with the adjoining properties of Tummaville and St. Ronan's, about 90,000 acres of magnificent agricultural and grazing land. The average rainfall for twenty-eight years has been $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Yandilla is chiefly devoted to wool-growing and the rearing of stud merino sheep and Shorthorn cattle, and to fattening large drafts of Western wethers and store cattle. The wool is a combing wool of good length and high quality, which has won medals at Paris, Philadelphia, and Brisbane.

The Yandilla country may be described as heavily grassed black soil plains, interspersed with clumps of gum-trees, the depth of the soil varying from 40 to 200 feet. It is watered by the Condamine and Grass Tree Creek; but the water supply for the stock is mainly derived from below ground, there being no less than twenty-four windmills on the property. In many respects, Yandilla is dissimilar to any other estate on the Downs. It is evidently the site of a vast lake-bed, which, running on a slope from south to north, has been filled by alluvial wash.

An enormous natural reservoir, or underground sea, underlies all this country. Around Yandilla Station the depth of the soil is about 40 feet, but it shelves and deepens until, at Mount Russell, it reaches the depth of several hundred feet. Wherever gravel is struck, there is the water, but the depth of the gravel has never been ascertained. It is known to be over 20 feet. Some day,

in the near future, this country will no doubt be the scene of extensive irrigation operations, with thousands of acres of highly cultivated farms and gardens. The proprietors have irrigated 120 acres from a well by means of a pulsometer pump with a 20-h.p. boiler, capable of throwing up 25,000 gallons an hour. Forty sheep to the acre have been carried on this irrigated land during drought. There is a large extent of cultivation at Yandilla, chiefly lucerne. These plains are famous for their natural grasses, and in a favourable winter they carry an immense amount of herbage.

The whole of this splendid property is now being cut up into farms and sold. In the near future many prosperous families will be settled upon it. It is a magnificent stretch of country, eminently adapted for dairying, lamb-raising, and mixed farming, carrying as it does such grasses and herbage as are seldom found elsewhere.

LEYBURN.

LEYBURN is a pastoral township on the Darling Downs. It is 42 miles from Toowoomba, 28 miles from Cambooya Railway Station, 36 miles from Warwick, and 110 from Goondiwindi. It has a mail running three times a week from Clifton, and twice a week from Yandilla. It is also in telephone communication with Ellangowan, Tummalville, Yandilla, Millmerran, Canning Creek, Condamine Plains, Kurrawah, and Cecil Plains, also with the towns of Warwick and Pratten. The population of the district is about 500. A fine group of stations, including Ellangowan, Balgownie, Felton, Stonehenge, and Yandilla, are in the neighbourhood.

CAMBOOYA.

THE subdivision and sale of the Etonvale and Harrow Estates has practically recreated Cambooya, which is now forging rapidly ahead. In the early days it was the first township formed on the Downs, and the depôt for all the teamsters; but until quite lately it consisted of only a few buildings.

Cambooya is about 24 miles from Toowoomba, on the Southern and Western Railway, which divides the farms on Etonvale from those on Harrow. It possesses a bank, two hotels, two churches (with a third to be built), a school, various stores and shops, saleyards, and aerated water factory. A butter factory will also in all probability be erected. Donald Mackintosh, Esq., M.L.A., is the member for the Cambooya electorate.

Etonvale Estate, consisting of 30,000 acres, in the last few years has been cut up and sold as farms in areas from 45 to 1,000 acres, the prices ranging from £2 5s. to £12 per acre. This fine tract of land extends along the eastern side of the railway line from Greenmount to Wyreema, and to within 4 miles of Drayton. There is also a portion of it on the western side near Greenmount. Every acre of it has now been purchased. A great number of the settlers are Southern men, principally Victorians. The old head station, with 4,000 acres, was sold in one block.

On the western side of the line about 24,000 acres of Harrow has been cut up and sold in areas of from 60 acres to 350 acres, and at from £4 15s. to £10 per acre. All of this is now occupied, and, with the settlement on Etonvale, has completely changed the aspect of the country. The land is chiefly devoted to dairying and lamb-raising. A few miles from Cambooya is Harrow head station, round which the proprietors have retained about 10,000 acres. This is one of the most up-to-date dairying, lamb-raising, and sheep-fattening estates on the Downs. It contains a large modern agricultural plant and about 2,000 acres under crop, chiefly lucerne and maize. All over

these Etonvale and Harrow lands water is got at easy depths—viz., from 30 to 150 feet. The Felton Estate, already mentioned, lies near Harrow, and, should it be subdivided, will benefit both Pittsworth and Cambooya. There is a cheese factory at Ramsay, 4 miles from Cambooya.

The Government township lots have all been bought, and further private lands have been cut up for residential sites. One $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre allotment, which three years ago could have been bought for £30, recently changed hands at £170, and another $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre in a good position was, at time of writing, under offer at £200. Since the subdivision of the estates, agricultural land has gone up £1 10s. to £2 per acre. Best lucerne land on improved farms fetches £10 per acre. Some small pieces in good position went up to £16 10s.; unimproved lucerne lots sell at £5 5s. per acre. The outside price for agricultural land was formerly £3 per acre. Many of the farms already taken up in large areas will probably be subdivided and sold, and the district is destined to carry a much heavier population than at present.

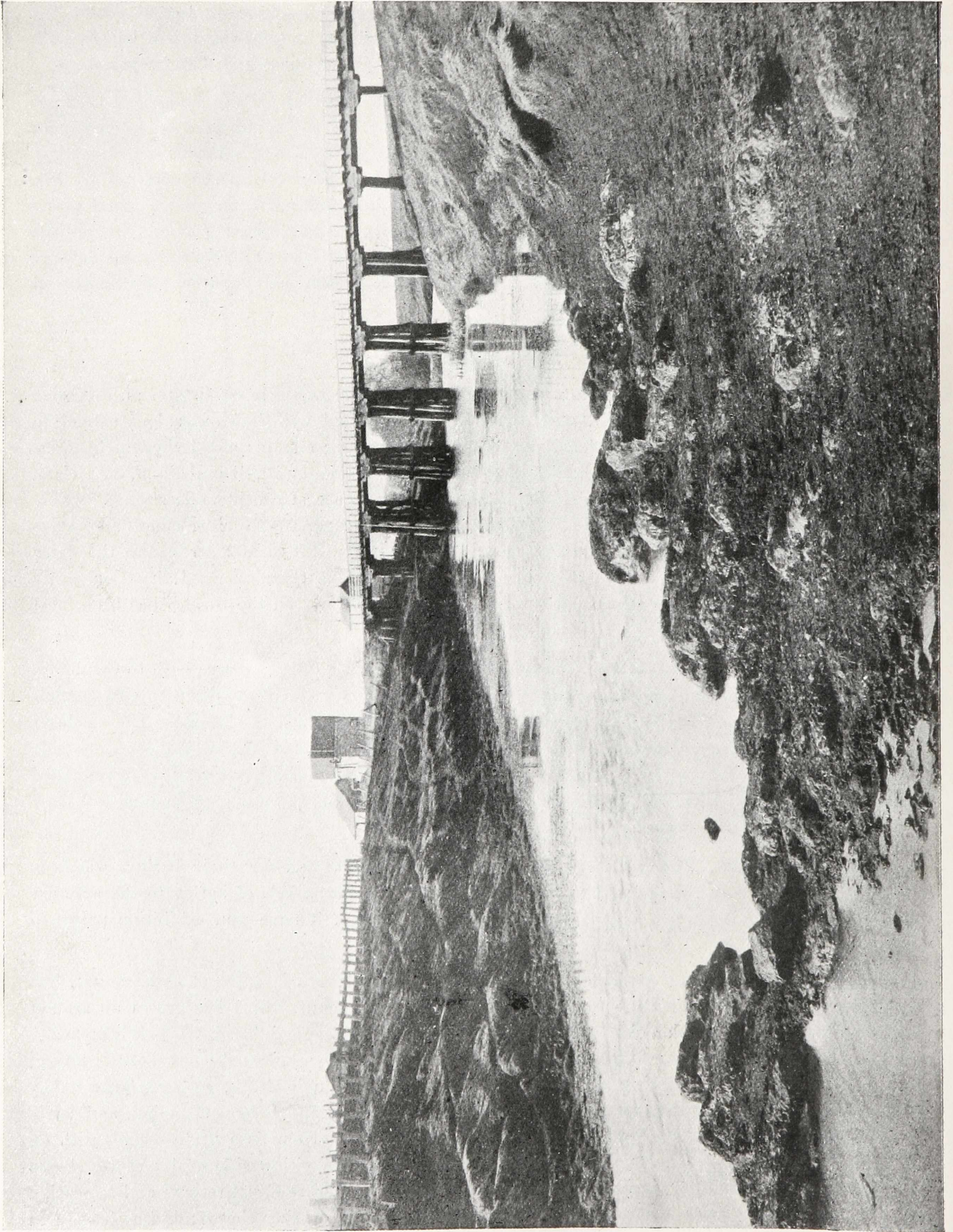
GREENMOUNT.

THE Greenmount district is one of the most prosperous on the Downs. It consists of an extensive tract of rich black soil alluvial flats, undulating open forest, and well-timbered ridges extending towards broken mountain country, plentifully watered by running streams and locked in by hills. It is an ideal dairying country. The houses of the settlers are large and well built, and, as a class, these farmers are exceedingly well-to-do. Some of the holdings are of considerable size. Probably the largest is that of Mr. Thomas Allen, of Woodlawn, whose property comprises some 6,000 acres of magnificent dairying land. Most of the other farms run from 80 to 400 acres, and the dairy farmers average a return of about £1 per month per cow. The Greenmount Dairy Company's cheese has earned a great reputation, and the factory, one of the first on the Downs, has been most successful in its operations.

The subdivision and sale of the Etonvale Estate have given a great impetus both to Cambooya and Greenmount. The southern boundaries of this estate formerly ran right down to Greenmount Railway Station on the eastern side, and beyond it on the western side of the line. The whole of this tract of country from Greenmount to within 8 miles of Toowoomba—for 10 miles on one side of the main road and for 8 miles on the other—is now closely settled with homesteads and well-tilled fields, in areas of from 45 to 1,000 acres. Nearly all these settlers have built good houses, and some of them have erected handsome residences.

The Greenmount, Etonvale, and Ramsay districts are famous for their barley, which is generally admitted to be the best produced on the Downs. Forty bushels of barley to the acre are often harvested, and it always commands top prices. Samples of it have won exhibition prizes in England.

The extension of close settlement has not only benefited the old centre of Greenmount, but has practically created a miniature township called West Greenmount, which has grown up around the Railway Station. At the old Greenmount centre there is a good hotel, "The Wheatsheaf," which has long been a familiar landmark, kept by Mr. A. Bell. The surrounding scenery is lovely, and a few days' excellent shooting and fishing can be obtained, King's Creek, with its large water-holes, being quite near. There are also two churches (Presbyterian and Roman Catholic), and a site for the proposed Church of England has recently been purchased. There is a State school, with an attendance of seventy, besides two Provisional schools, 3 miles on either side of it; store, cheese factory, Post Office, pavilion, blacksmith and butchers' shops, and Police Court reserve and recreation grounds. At Ramsay there is a co-operative dairy factory, manufacturing cheese; and a cheese and butter factory at Pilton.



KING'S CREEK AT CLIFTON,

Quite a township is springing up round the Greenmount Railway Station, consisting of two stores, branch of the Queensland National Bank, hotel, Provisional school, and a number of shops and other business premises. A considerable amount of trade is done here with the farmers on the Etonvale Estate and the older settlement around Ramsay and Pilton. As settlement continues this centre must be one of increasing importance.



THE WHEATSHEAF HOTEL, GREENMOUNT.

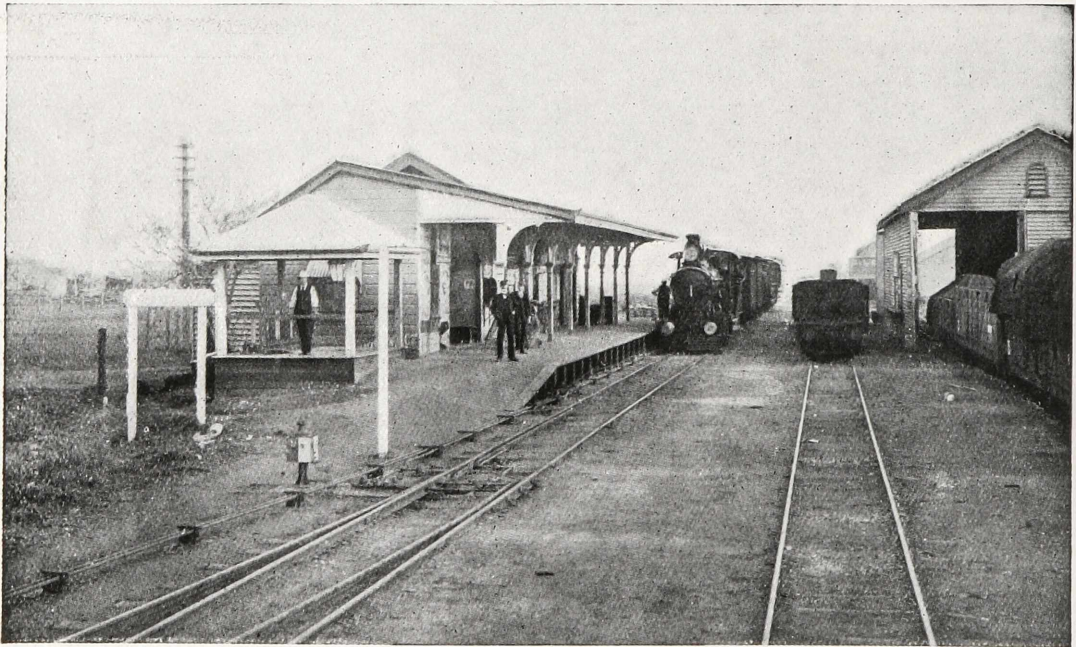
CLIFTON AND DISTRICT.

THE Clifton district includes the parishes of Hodgson, Tooth, Stephens, Elphinstone, Haldon, Clifton, Table Top, and Pilton. The town is on a plain surrounded by thousands of acres of splendid black, brown, and chocolate soil, and watered by two creeks—King's Creek and Spring Creek—which empty into the Condamine. Water is also obtainable at depths varying from 20 feet to 100 feet. Rich crops of lucerne, wheat, barley, and maize are produced. After rains, the whole of the uncultivated land is waving with rich natural grasses, wild flowers, and herbage such as trefoil, wild carrot, crowsfoot, wild turnip, wild geranium, and lucerne; its carrying capacity in a natural state being about one sheep to the acre. A very large business is done in produce, and heavy consignments of hay, chaff, maize, wheat, and barley are trucked to Brisbane and elsewhere.

Dairying here is yet in its infancy, but a start is now being made by the establishment of a co-operative butter factory. With a proper system of conservation of fodder, it is hard to estimate what might not be done in this direction, as most of the land in the neighbourhood is suitable for lucerne, and the district, except during the severe drought, has never experienced a period when fodder could not be produced. In the future, lamb-raising and dairying will prove to be the backbone of Clifton; the large landholder going in more for the former, and the small proprietor for the latter. Wheat and barley sown in April can be fed down until July, and then allowed to stand for grain, thus serving the dual purpose of supplying feed for cows and grain for the mill. The annual rainfall

is about 30 inches. Clifton, which has not yet been created a municipality—although it deserves that title more than many places—is locally governed by the Clifton Shire Council. F. Grayson, Esq., M.L.A., is the member for the Cunningham electorate.

The township, which is right on the main railway line between Brisbane and Sydney, has advanced with rapid strides in the last few years, and is humming with prosperity. There are four banks—branches of the Australian Joint Stock, Ltd., Queensland National, Ltd., Union of Australia, Ltd., and Bank of New South Wales—six hotels (five of them two-story buildings), flour mill, saw mill, school of arts, two public halls, four churches, two newspapers, Post and Telegraph Office, Shire Council Chambers, Court House, about a dozen stores, and a large number of other business establishments. The population is about 800, and of the surrounding district about 2,500. There are three auctioneers, who hold regular stock sales, so that there is one almost every week. A progressive society, founded in 1901, under the title of the Darling Downs Pastoral, Agricultural, and Industrial Association, holds annual exhibitions. This society, which is in a flourishing condition, has a show ground of



CLIFTON RAILWAY STATION.

20 acres near the township, on which it has erected a building and other improvements to the amount of £500. Further improvements are in contemplation. A grain shed, with a storage capacity of 8,000 bags of grain, has been erected by the Government at Clifton Railway Station, and another, with holding room for 10,000 bags, at Nobby, a few miles distant. There is also a recreation ground of 90 acres, where horse-racing and other sports are held. Clifton is the home of polo, and the headquarters of the Darling Downs Polo Union. It also possesses race clubs (two), rifle, tennis, cricket, and football clubs. Coursing has been considerably revived of late years. Hare, quail, and duck shooting can be obtained. There is good fishing, principally cod, to be got in King's Creek, 2 miles north of Clifton, which also contains deep waterholes for bathing. The present prosperity of Clifton is largely due to close settlement, caused by the subdivision of Headington Hill Estate and three sections of Clifton Estate by the Government, and by the cutting up of the remaining portion of Clifton Station and of the Old Talgai lands by private owners.

Headington Hill, which adjoins the township on the east, and extends northwards to within about 2 miles of Nobby and eastwards to Pilton—another fine estate—originally consisted of 36,702 acres, which was purchased by the Government in 1898 for £2 4s. per acre, and was taken up in 246 farms at £2 8s. 8d. per acre. It is now a thriving settlement, and the land has increased in value about 150 per cent. in the last nine years. The whole of the purchasing price—£89,648 6s. 9d.—put on the land has been paid by the settlers, the only arrears due in this large amount being 8s. 11d., which proves the wisdom of this movement for settling the land.

Clifton Repurchased Estates No. 1 and Nos. 2 and 3, comprising 9,208 and 8,389 acres respectively, and purchased by the Government at £2 15s. 5d. and £2 11s. 2d. per acre, at various dates in 1897, 1899, and 1904, is now cut up into 138 blocks, on which 128 Government selectors have made their homes. This land was selected at an average price of £3 1s. and £2 18s. 3d. per acre; and of the total amount—£52,036—repayable to the Government the whole has been cleared off in the case of Clifton No. 1, and only £85 6s. 11d. is due in arrears in the case of Clifton Nos. 2 and 3 blocks.



STREET VIEW, CLIFTON.

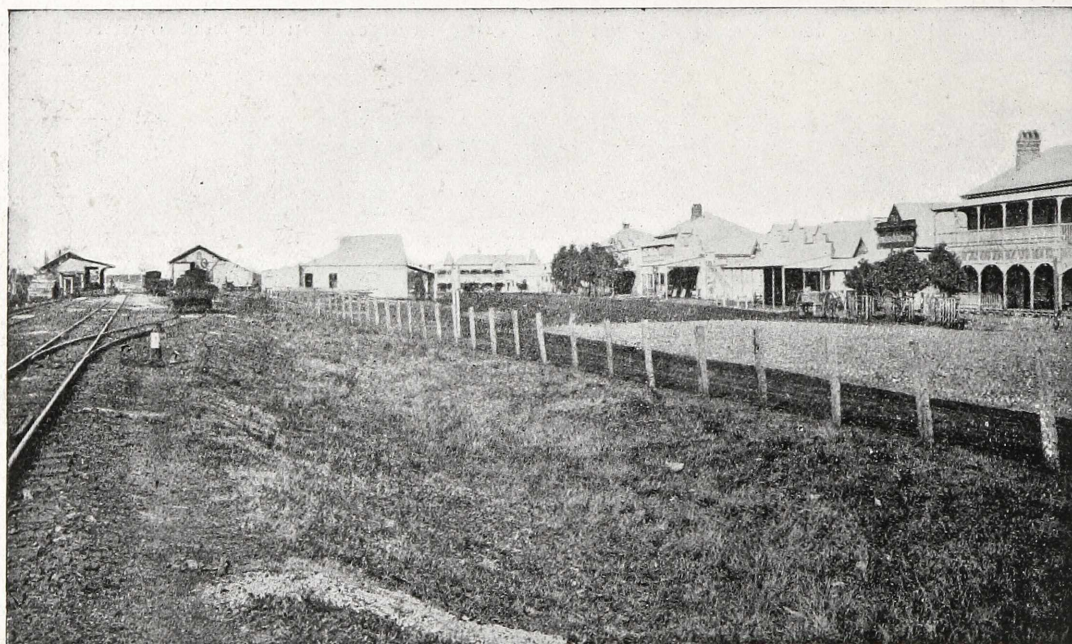
Clifton Station, a private estate, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile north-west of the township, and comprising 7,050 acres, is now being sold in farms. Old Talgai, 24,000 acres, 8 to 12 miles to the south-west, which was also cut up and sold privately, was rushed by local residents. It was put up in areas from 175 to 930 acres, every acre being bought at an average price of £4 5s. per acre.

The Ellangowan Estate, about 12 to 20 miles west of Clifton, and comprising 80,000 acres, finds an outlet for its wool and produce there. A movement is on foot to agitate for a railway from Clifton to Ellangowan. Should this object be achieved, and result in the subdivision of this fine property for close settlement, it will also bring in the trade from Leyburn and Thane. Part of Felton Estate is only about 14 miles from Clifton, and its subdivision and sale in farms would greatly benefit the district.

Among other important surrounding influences is Back Plains, an old farming settlement, 8 or 9 miles west-north-west of the township. It dates back from the seventies, and is one of the

most prosperous portions of the Downs. The holdings vary in size from 320 to 2,000 acres, and a system of mixed farming is in vogue. Wheat, maize, and lucerne-growing is combined with dairying. Large quantities of grain, hay, and chaff are sent away yearly, and many of the farmers grow wool also and fatten sheep for the Brisbane market. There are three schools within a radius of 2 miles, also a cheese factory and school of arts.

Nobby, 5 miles north of Clifton, contains two hotels, four stores, and several shops and business premises. It is a fine district, chiefly producing wheat, barley, and maize. Mount Kent, at the back of Nobby, is also an old settlement. It is all beautifully sheltered country, principally sheep farms, adjoining Back Plains and running right up to Felton. Maltsters generally consider that Greenmount, Mount Kent, and Nobby grow some of the finest barley in Queensland. Spring Creek, about 5 miles



STREET SCENE, CLIFTON.

east of Clifton, and midway between it and Allora, is a long-established settlement engaged in wheat-growing and dairying. It possesses a school, creamery, and school of arts and church. At Pilton there is a butter factory, one of the first started in Queensland. There is also a fine cheese factory with an established market in the West.

All these localities are building up the trade of Clifton, which has doubled in size in the last eight or nine years, and is still extending very rapidly. Should the Pilton and Ellangowan Estates, situated to the eastwards and westwards of the present farming settlements, be cut up, further agricultural expansion and consequential commercial activity are inevitable. The township at present is full of life, and money is plentiful. The fact that local men have ample confidence in the place is shown by their readiness to acquire fresh lands whenever opportunity offers. A great many of the very early settlers came here with almost nothing, and bought their land originally at 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per acre. These same men are now giving £6 to £7 per acre for unimproved land adjoining their own, which is the best possible guarantee of the stability of the district.

As an instance of what can be done by a shrewd farmer who combines stock-dealing and lucerne-growing on a small holding, it may be stated that one local settler who has a farm of

320 acres, 300 of which are under lucerne, cleared £1,280 in one year out of sheep and chaff. This would give his 320 acres a capital value of £6,400. In another case a man with 960 acres, 400 of which are in cultivation, carries 2,000 ewes on the property all the year round, and sold about 2,000 bags of wheat and nearly 1,000 bags of maize in their respective seasons from his land.

The area under cultivation in the Clifton district in 1906 was 35,775 acres.



WOOL AT CLIFTON RAILWAY STATION, AND SHOWING GRAIN SHED.

ALLORA AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

LIKE Clifton, the present prosperity of Allora has been created by the cutting up of large estates and the introduction of modern dairying. Allora, however, is a much older community, agriculture beginning here as far back as the sixties. In 1879 about 20,000 acres of Goomburra Station, known as the Allora Exchange Lands, was opened for selection, and rapidly settled. In the eighties a reserved portion of this, consisting of the Forest Plain country, was subdivided and eagerly snapped up. The Headington Hill lands (already mentioned) to the north of the town have also assisted in its development.

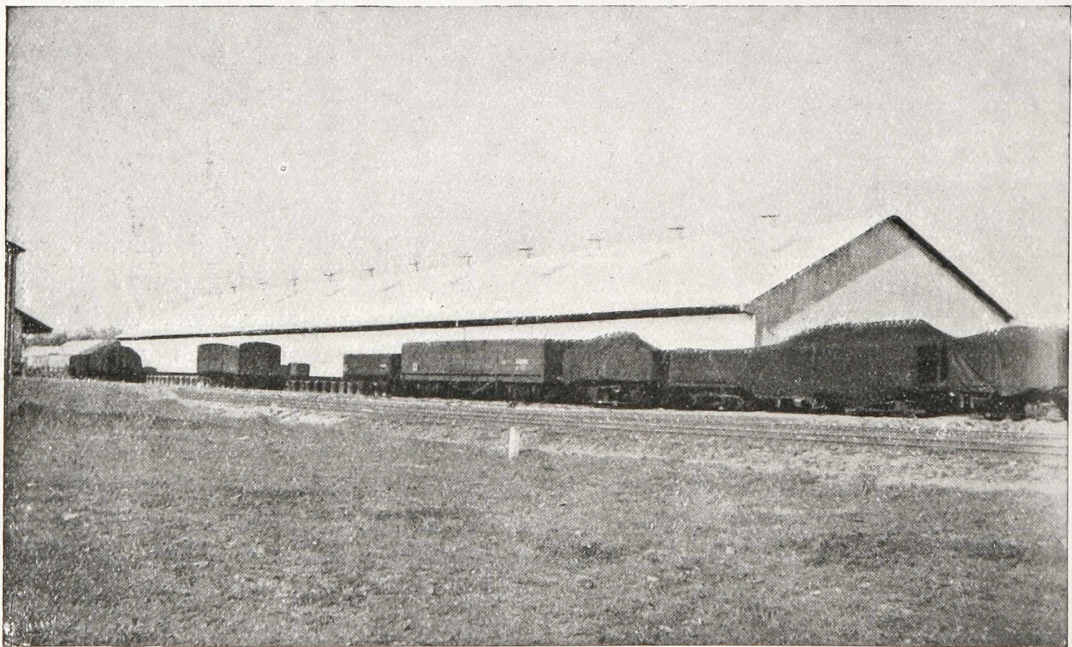
The Glengallan Estate, containing some of the best agricultural soil in the district, and lying to the south, between Allora and Warwick, was purchased by the Government at periods extending from 1896 to 1904. This land was opened in three sections of 6,301, 9,116, and 21,653 acres respectively, in small areas, suitable for farming, and every acre was taken, at prices varying from £3 to £4 per acre. The result has been that all the country between Allora and Warwick is now a huge settlement, and the land has trebled in value.

Goomburra, comprising 13,120 acres, and situated a few miles up Dalrymple Creek to the east of the town, was acquired and subdivided by the Government in 1905 with similar results. One of these Goomburra selectors had recently 60 acres under potatoes, and got a return of £800 on his year's operations. The plough has completely altered the face of the country in the last few years, and the class of residence built by the average farmer is greatly superior to that of a decade ago. All this country is now the scene of intense farming where dairying flourishes. The soil is a heavy black



STREET VIEW, ALLORA.

loam on the plains and flats, and brown and chocolate of a lighter character on the ridges. Large areas are planted in wheat and maize. Six to ten bags of wheat and twelve to sixteen bags of



GRAIN SHED, ALLORA.

maize—in some cases up to seventeen bags—are often harvested per acre. A few of the larger farmers run sheep on their lucerne paddocks, and raise fat wethers and lambs, but dairying is the principal standby. Pig-raising is also extensively carried on.

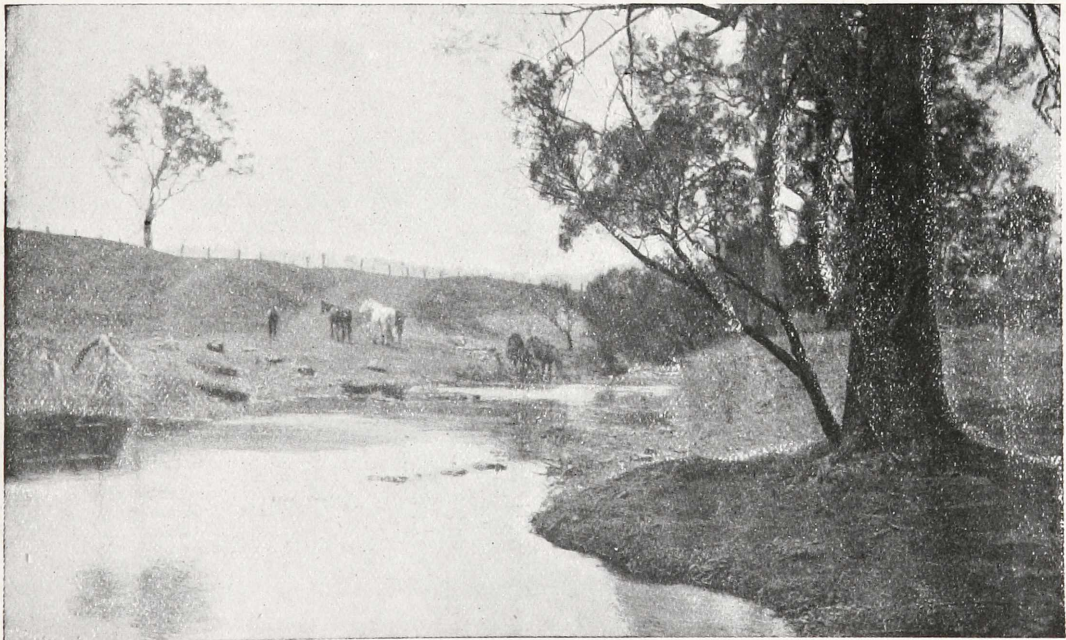
There is no more beautiful district in Queensland than this around Allora and up Dalrymple Creek. It has frequently been termed, in the words of Goldsmith—"Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of

the plain"; and the fine willows fringing the creek give it an old-country aspect. The town is on a flat about 3 miles from the main railway line, with which it is connected by a branch railway.



LOADING TRUCKS, ALLORA.

Dalrymple Creek runs through it, and water can be obtained anywhere on the surrounding plains at a depth varying from 30 to 100 feet.



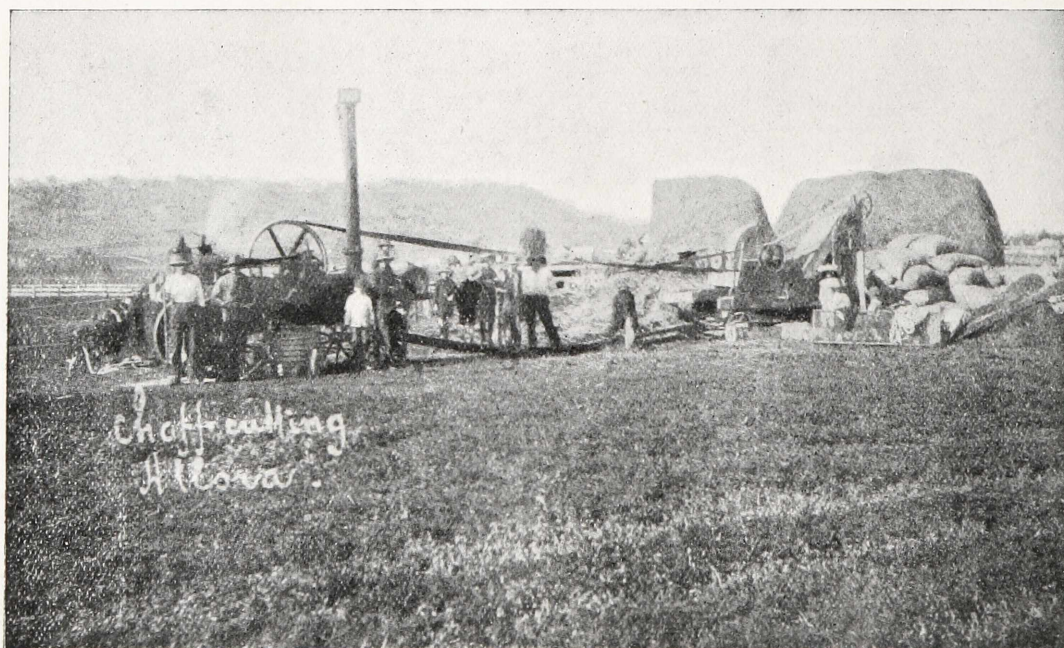
SCENE ON DALRYMPLE CREEK.

Allora is the centre of the Allora Exchange Lands, Forest Plain, part of Headington Hill and Glengallan, Goomburra, East Talgai and Talgai West, Pratten, and other neighbourhoods. The pro-



MILKERS WATERING, DALRYMPLE CREEK.

perties of the farmers are now nearly all freehold, with the exception of a few on Glengallan and Goomburra. The town has doubled in size in the last five years, and is forging steadily ahead. It is solid and solvent. Trade is brisk. Large consignments of maize and wheat leave here for Brisbane and New South Wales. All the plain and a great deal of the slopes are eminently suitable for lucerne.



CHAFF CUTTING, ALLORA.

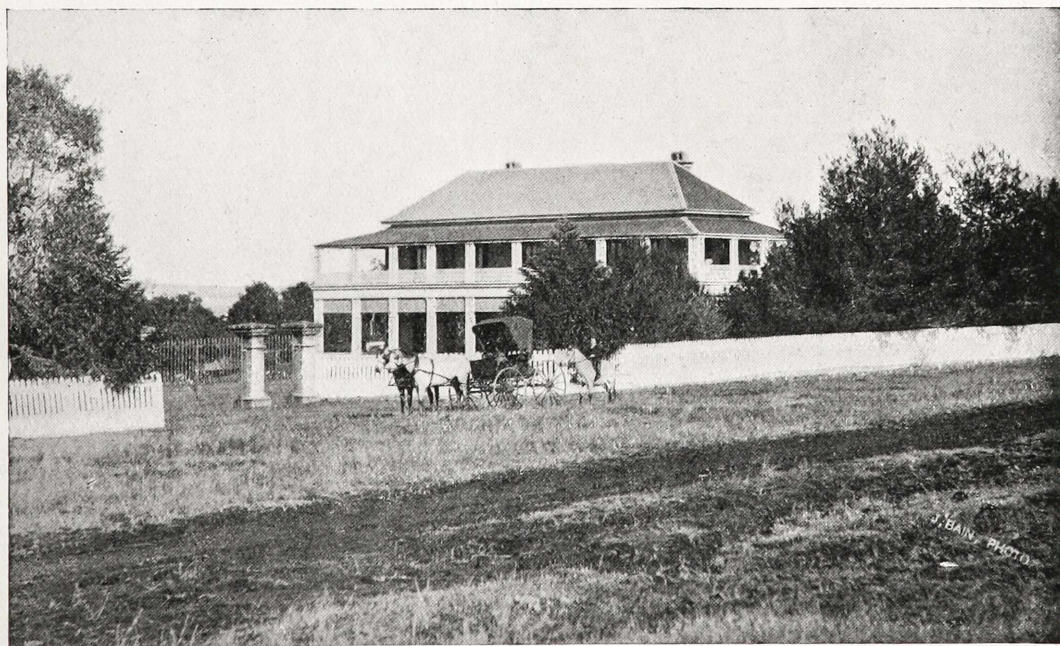
The area under cultivation in the neighbourhood is 27,386 acres. The town contains Court House and Police Barracks, Railway Station and Post Office, four churches, three banks (Queensland National, Ltd., Commercial of Sydney, and Australian Joint Stock, Ltd.), a new Town Hall—

costing £500—school of arts, two public halls, State school with a large attendance, and other schools at Hendon, Talgai West, Spring Creek, Forest Plain (two), Goomburra (two), and Glengallan (two).

There is an excellent newspaper, saw mill, flour mill, butter factory, six hotels, several large well-found stores, and numerous shops and other business establishments. There are several auctioneers and estate agents, and regular stock sales are held. The town is linked by telephone with Brisbane, Toowoomba, Warwick, and other Downs centres. The population is 1,500, and the valuation of the unimproved land within the municipality, which is about 9 square miles in area, is, at a low estimate, £80,402. A railway from Hendon to Allora was constructed on the guarantee principle by the Government in 1897, and, in spite of adverse prophecies, is proving a great success. During the last three years it has paid a subsidy of £1,200 after clearing all working expenses and paying 4 per cent. interest on cost of construction. There is a co-operative butter factory (a branch of the Warwick factory) at the the Railway Station. It was established in September, 1906, and is now turning out 23 tons of butter per month. It began at 16 tons per month, and went as high as 32 tons. The last dividend was 8 per cent. for the twelve months of working. Allora possesses an excellent park of over 100 acres, known as the Queen's Park. On a portion of this a fine memorial to the district soldiers who fell in the South African war has been erected. There are a Masonic lodge, several friendly societies, a musical union, and cricket, football, and tennis clubs in the town. The price of land in the town is advancing rapidly, $\frac{1}{8}$ -acre recently fetched £200, and agricultural land within $1\frac{1}{2}$ -mile radius is worth £15 per acre.

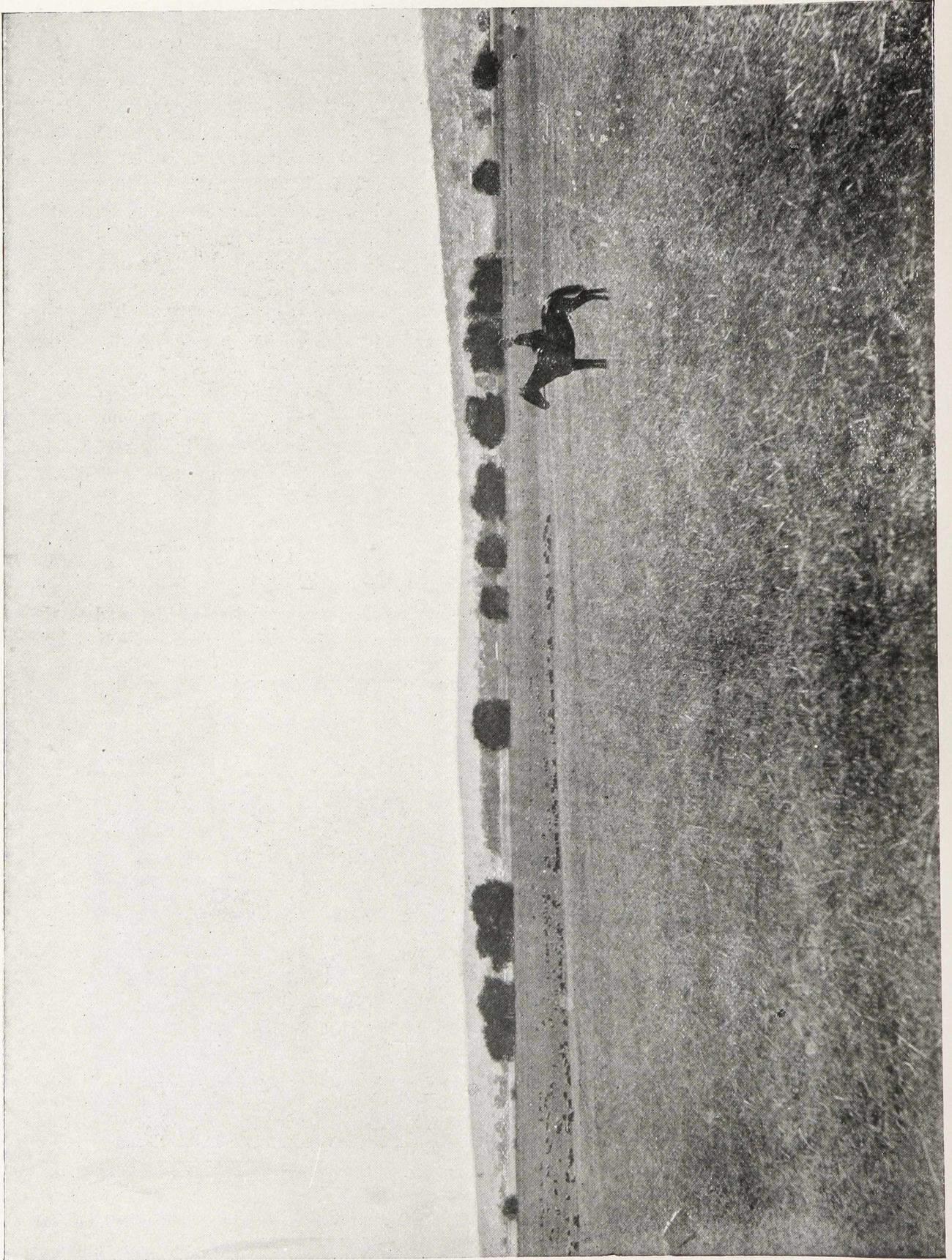
EAST GLENGALLAN.

W. B. SLADE, Esq., the owner of the Glengallan Estate before it was subdivided and sold to the Government, still retains about 5,000 acres of the property. This consists of rich alluvial flats,

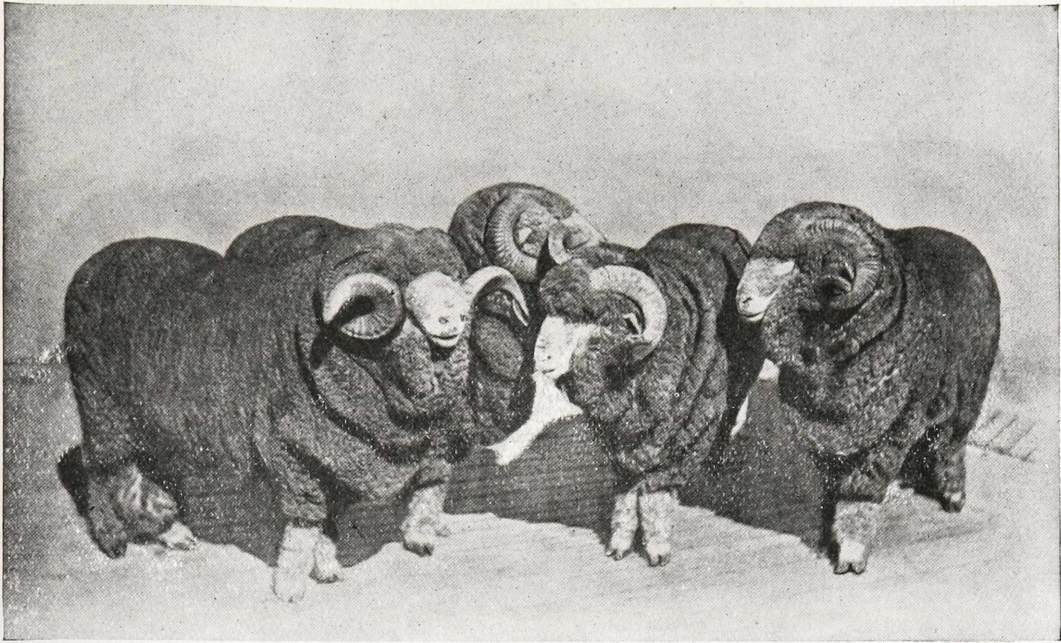


GLENGALLAN HOUSE.

largely laid down in lucerne, and has been named East Glengallan. Here the pure merino Glengallan stud flock, celebrated in the show grounds of Queensland, is still kept up. The stud flock numbers



TYPICAL GLENGALLAN COUNTRY.



GROUP OF PURE MERINO RAMS, BRED BY W. B. SLADE, ESQ., GLENGALLAN.

about 8,000 ewes. Drafts of these sheep are sold to Western and North-western Queensland, New South Wales, and South Africa, where the estate has constituents who keep their flocks true to the pure Glengallan strain. Dairying is also carried on.



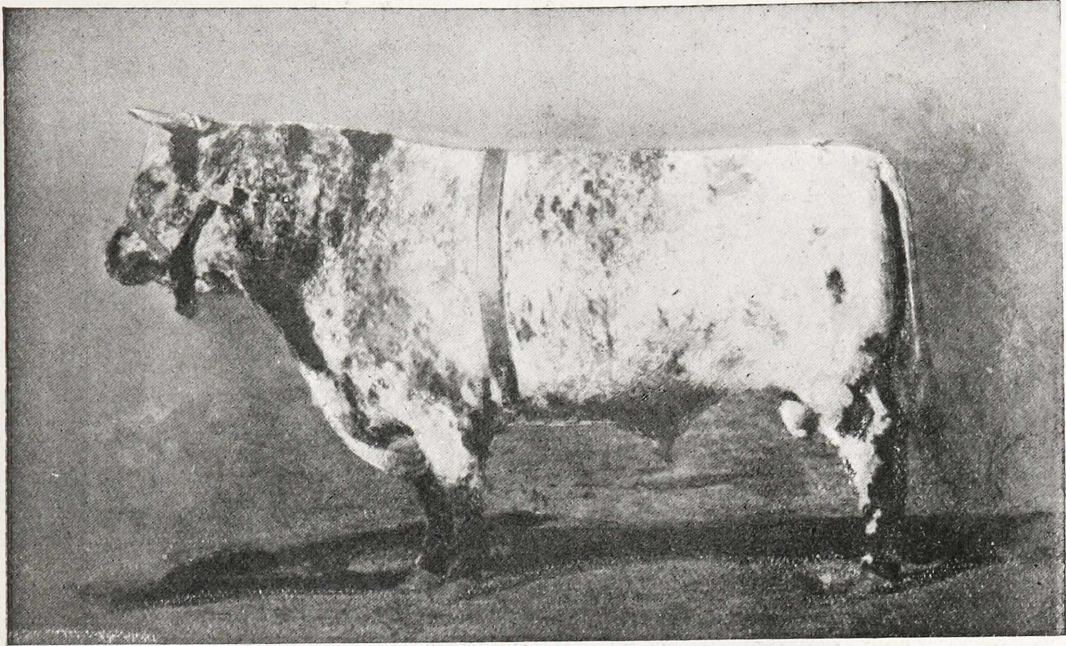
PURE MERINO RAM, BRED BY W. B. SLADE, ESQ., GLENGALLAN.

This estate is worked in conjunction with two other properties—"The Glen" and "Ashgrove." The Glen is situated 9 miles from Warwick, and comprises 5,500 acres. Cultivation is carried on—



HEREFORD CATTLE, NORTH TOOLBURRA.

principally lucerne, barley, pumpkins, and mangolds. It is suitably subdivided and used as a stud farm for stud Shorthorn cattle and blood horses.



RUGIA'S PRINCE 1ST, CHAMPION SHORTHORN BULL OF QUEENSLAND.

(Bred by W. B. Slade, Esq., Glengallan.)

Ashgrove, the other property, consists of 35,000 acres, near Inglewood, especially suited for growing fine wool. Last year the wool reached $14\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., and averaged 13d. on 139 bales. This

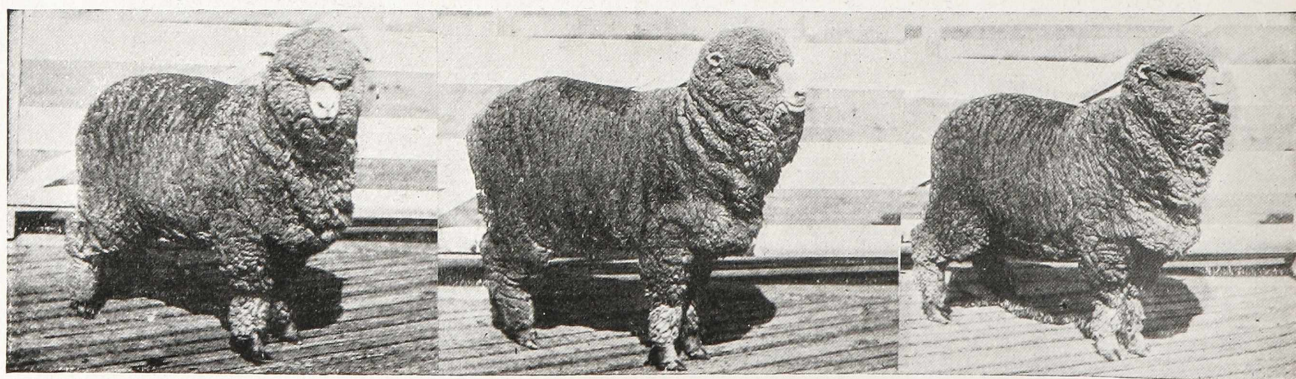


PURE GLENGALLAN SHORTHORNS, BRED BY W. B. SLADE, ESQ.

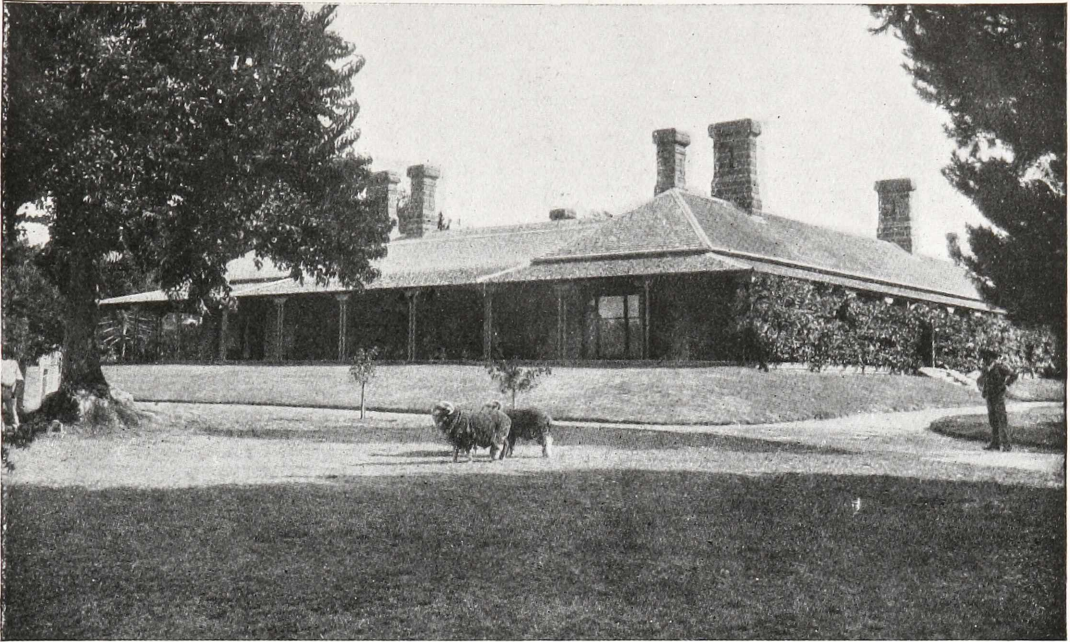
year the price had already reached 15d., and the best wool, at time of writing, had not been sold. The whole estate is enclosed with wire netting, and carries 20,000 wethers, the pick of Western sheep.



A GRASS TREE, EAST TALGAI.



GLENGALLAN PURE MERINO EWES, BRED BY W. B. SLADE, ESQ.



EAST TALGAI HOMESTEAD.

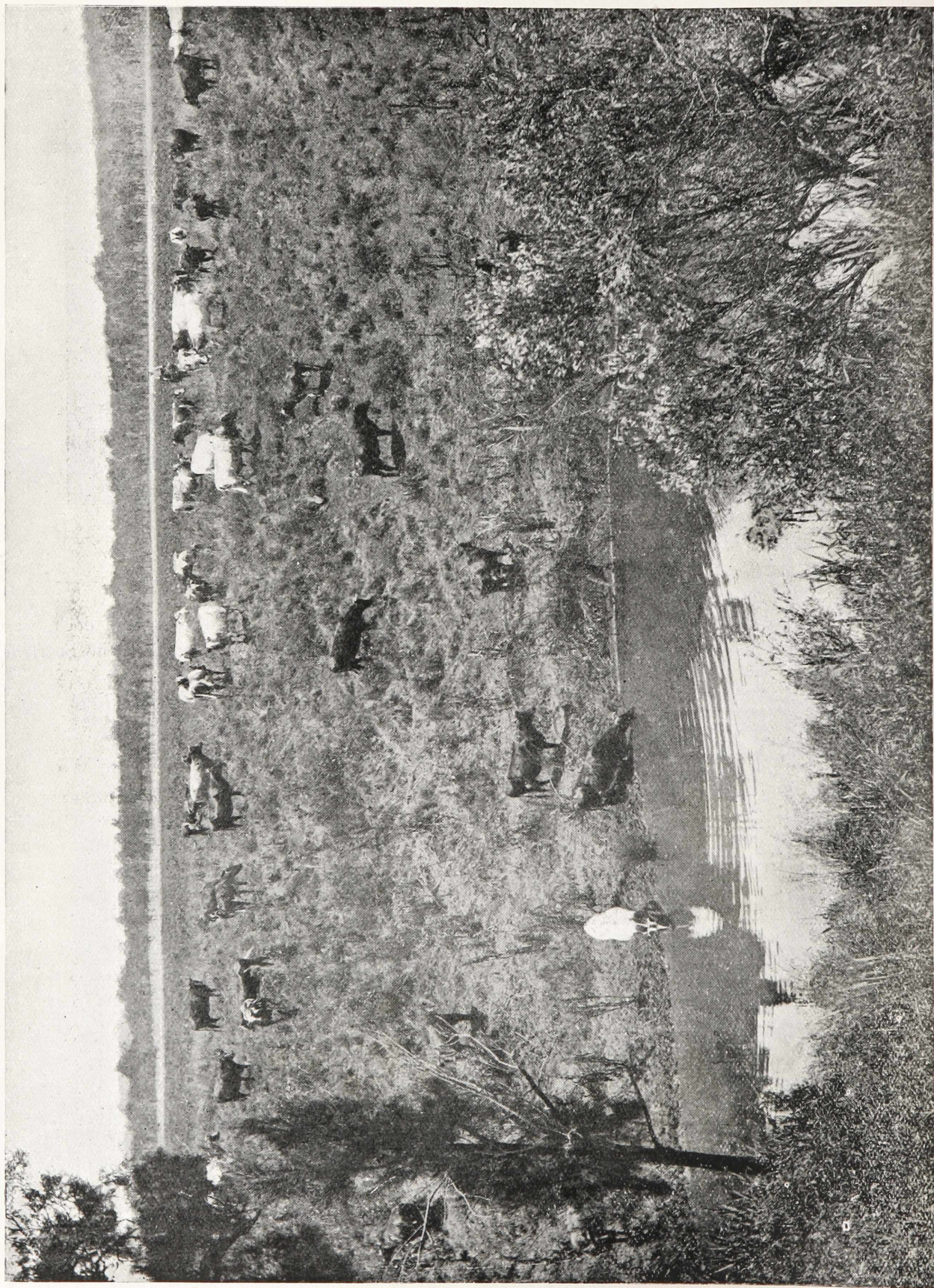
EAST TALGAI.

THE long-established and well-known estate of East Talgai, famous for its merino stud flock, was some years ago divided and sold, a portion of 23,000 acres being purchased by the Scottish



STUD EWES, EAST TALGAI.

Australian Investment Company. The other portion of the run, containing the old homestead and about 9,000 acres of rich agricultural and grazing land, is still retained by G. C. Clark, Esq. This



DAIRY COWS AT THE POOL, TALGAI WEST.

carries about 6,000 sheep and 1,000 head of cattle and horses. There are 1,000 acres of cultivation, chiefly lucerne and barley, grown for the stock. The sheep are all studs, descended from Tasmanian importations—principally from Monavale and St. Johnstone's—and the rams are sold to improve the flocks on Western stations. These rams are sold to runs all over Queensland, and drafts have been purchased by breeders in Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand. Lately small lots have been bought for South Africa. Recently Mr. Clark has purchased a grazing area (Yanna) of 20,000 acres, near Charleville, in the West, which is now being improved with a view to stocking up with stud sheep from East Talgai, and rams will be bred there in conjunction with the latter property. The type of sheep is a fairly plain-bodied animal of medium size, with a good neck and well covered on the points and belly with a dense fleece of medium quality. As these sheep were all shorn before application was made, it was impossible to send any samples of wool to the Anglo-French Exhibition. A good many fat cattle are also turned off the station every year.



STUD EWES, TALGAI WEST.

TALGAI WEST.

A MODEL DAIRY FARM.

TALGAI WEST, comprising 23,000 acres, the property of the Scottish Australian Investment Company, and managed by Aubin Dowling, Esq., who has been called "a prince of managers," has earned the reputation of being the most up-to-date dairy establishment in the State. Dairying operations were started on Talgai West in October, 1898, there being then only one farm and thirteen cows milking. From this small beginning operations have developed to such an extent that there are now nine dairy farms, keeping as many families in profitable employment, on the property, and milking up to 900 cows. The output for the twelve months ending the 30th June, 1907, was 411,630 gallons of milk, which produced 354,633 lb. of cream, the year's return per cow for cream sold being £8 0s. 11d., without taking into account the value of the skim milk for rearing calves and for fattening pigs. Over 800 fat pigs were turned off the estate during the year.

Previous to starting operations on Talgai West only a few spasmodic attempts had been made at dairying on the Darling Downs, all resulting more or less in failure. Talgai West was the



CHAMPION COW MIRIAM, TALGAI WEST.

pioneer estate of the industry in the way of demonstrating what could be done on a large scale, worked on the share system, and carried on side by side with sheep-breeding. A very high class stud of merino sheep had already been established and is still kept up.



DAIRY CALVES, TALGAI WEST.

METHODS OF WORKING.

From the very outset it was determined to work on the most modern lines, and the sequel is to be found in the excellent up-to-date equipment throughout the estate. The result is an object lesson, and no State Experimental Farm submits an example more deserving of emulation.

The milking herd is being worked up on the principle of selection, the individual merits of each cow being determined by the actual result computed from the daily record of the quantity of milk that she gives and the percentage of butter fat that it contains.

The foundation of the herd was established on the importation of both bulls and cows from the famous Illawarra district, in New South Wales. Shorthorn cows, as near as possible to the type of dairy cow, were also selected from the company's own herd at Corranga, near Gayndah, and some excellent results have been obtained by mating these with the pure imported dairy bulls. The company's champion cow "Edith" was bred in this way, and she was never beaten in the show ring, and is a model of what a dairy cow should be. The pedigree of each cow and bull is carefully recorded by a system of numbers in a book kept for the purpose, as a guide to future breeding.

The management, owing to a simple and effective method of book-keeping, have practically a clear statement of its dairying business from day to day. The financial aspect of the industry and earning capacity of the dairy herds are carefully set down in books made expressly for the purpose.



PIGGERIES, TALGAI WEST.

SHARE SYSTEM.

The only effective way in which dairying can be profitably worked on a large scale is on the share system. Talgai West was the first to establish this system successfully, and all others have been copied from it. There are now nine tenant farmers on the estate—all in a prosperous condition—and this division of labour enables the whole of the 900 cows to be milked without any effort on the part of the management. They have 1,150 cows allotted to them, either in milk or about to calve. Every facility is given them to heat the milk and keep the premises in an absolutely clean condition. Water is laid on under pressure, and the milking-shed floors are laid down with cement concrete, and flushed out every morning. There is a large central creamery, where the milk is put through the separators every morning in winter and twice a day in summer, and the cream sent away to Warwick or Allora.



TOWN OF WARWICK,

The share system is arranged so that the company retains half the profit and the tenant the other half. The company finds the land and the cows, dairy utensils, milk cart and harness, puts up all improvements, which the tenant has to keep in repair. The tenant finds his own farm horses and implements, and all the labour. The tenant is paid 7s. 6d. each for all calves satisfactorily reared. All accounts are paid monthly, and all business connected with the farms must be transacted through the manager. The whole business is eminently successful, the tenants and the landlord



200 TONS OF PUMPKINS ON 32 ACRES, TALGAI WEST.

working in perfect accord. There is a Provisional school for the children; also a school of arts. The conservation of fodder has always been recognised as an important element in successful dairying, and large quantities of lucerne hay and ensilage are made every summer for use in winter and dry times. There are over 3,000 acres under cultivation. In addition to dairying, about 10,000 high-class merino sheep are kept, from which the rams are bred to supply the Western stations of the company.

WARWICK AND DISTRICT.

WARWICK is situated on the Condamine, 169 miles distant from Brisbane, and about 30 miles from the head of the river, which rises in the Killarney Ranges. The site is an excellent one, being very level, on an outcrop of carboniferous sandstone, which makes its streets clean and pleasant in wet weather. The river, which is fringed with willows, almost encircles the town. In the distance loom the dark-blue outlines of the Main Range, making a charming frame to the picture. The streets are picturesquely planted with trees. Two handsome parks, each 10 acres in extent, are situated in the centre of the town, and laid out with ornamental trees and shrubs, flowers, and large rose beds. These parks are an object lesson to every town in Queensland, and the citizens of Warwick are justly proud of them.

Trains leave daily for Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Stanthorpe, Ipswich, and Toowoomba. There is a branch line to Killarney, 28 miles distant by rail, running through a

magnificent agricultural district. The border line, started in 1906, has now reached Inglewood to the west, and in about six months' time will be finished as far as Goondiwindi, from whence it will probably continue along the Queensland-New South Wales border. There is also a Telephone Exchange, and the town is linked up by telephone with Brisbane, Toowoomba, Dalby, Ipswich, and all the Darling Downs centres.

The town of Warwick was founded in 1847 and incorporated in 1861. The first load of wool from the Downs was sent away from here, and let down by ropes and pulleys from Cunningham's Gap. The Hon. T. O'Sullivan, M.L.A., Minister for Works, now represents the town.

Warwick is the natural centre for the great farming settlements of North Toolburra, Glengallan, Allora, and Clifton to the north; of all the country up to the New South Wales border (including Stanthorpe) to the south; on the west it taps the trade on the Barwon and McIntyre as far as Mungindi, including the agricultural settlement around Inglewood (chiefly devoted to wheat, oats, and dairying) and the tobacco lands at Texas, and the pastoral products, such as wool, hides,

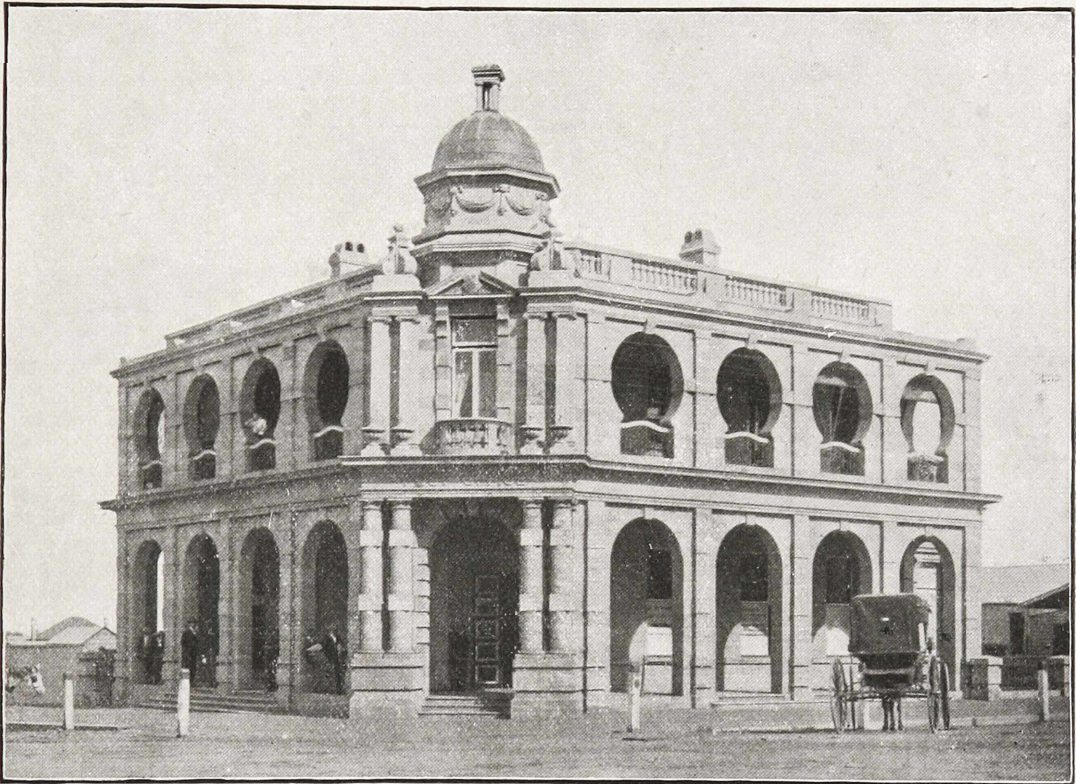


RAILWAY STATION, WARWICK.

fat stock, &c., around Goondiwindi. On the east it is the metropolis of the rich Canning Downs settlement, which comes right up to the town, and of the magnificently fertile valley lands of the Condamine and its tributary creeks from Killarney to Gladfield, including Killarney, Yangan, Farm Creek, Emu Creek, Freestone Creek, and Glengallan Creek—a very populous district, producing wheat, barley, oats, maize in large quantities, potatoes, lucerne, dairy produce, and pigs. There can be little doubt that for beauty of scenery as well as for fertility of soil and regularity of rainfall the country comprised as above is the pick of the whole Darling Downs district.

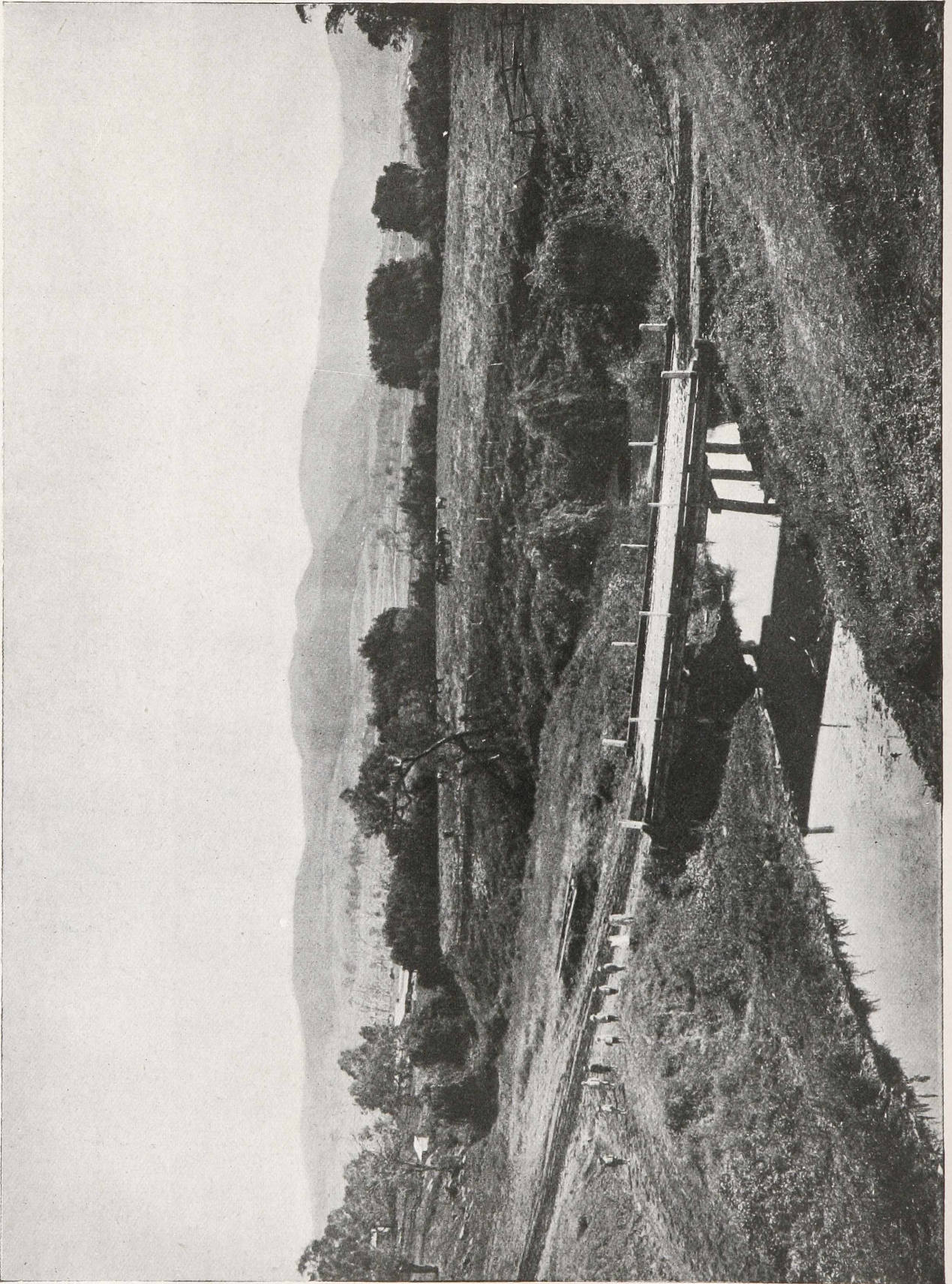
The comparatively recent subdivision and sale of the estates of North Toolburra and Glengallan by the Government, and the estate of Canning Downs by private owners, have been the making of Warwick, and have launched it on a course of solid prosperity which must inevitably move forward to still greater developments.

The town, which is situated at the southern end of the great basaltic tableland of the Downs, has many fine buildings, built principally of freestone obtained in the neighbourhood. These give it a solid appearance. All the new buildings going up (and they are many) are of a very substantial character. The area of the municipality is 4,922 acres, and the street mileage and roads total 70 miles. The value of the unimproved rateable land is £288,832, and the buildings number nearly 1,000. The population of the town is estimated at 6,000, and of the district about 11,000. The town is lit by gas, made from local coal obtained at Tannymorel, and supplied with water



POST OFFICE, WARWICK.

from a reservoir filled from the Condamine and from wells in the southern part of the municipality. The town is divided into three wards—North, Central, and South—returning three aldermen to each ward. The present Mayor is Alderman B. T. De Conlay; Town Clerk, Mr. J. Spreadborough. There are six banks—Queensland National, Ltd., Commercial of Sydney, Royal, Ltd., Union of Australia, Ltd., New South Wales, and Australian Joint Stock, Ltd.; Four churches—Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, and Church of England. The Salvation Army also has a branch here. The public buildings comprise Post and Telegraph Office—erected at a cost of £5,500—Telephone Exchange, Court House, and Police Station, School of Arts, and Technical College. The Hospital, situated in a commanding position overlooking the town, is one of the best in Southern Queensland. There is a resident doctor, matron, and staff of trained nurses. An Ambulance Brigade has been in existence for some



SWAN CREEK.

years. A Benevolent Society looks after the wants of the extreme poor—who, fortunately, are very few. There are two State schools—the Warwick West, containing three separate departments and showing a total average attendance of 450 children; and the East Warwick mixed school, showing an average attendance of 150 children. There are also about twenty State schools in the district within a 20-mile radius. A denominational school connected with the Roman Catholic Church has an average attendance of 300 pupils. There is also a Roman Catholic convent. The private educational establishments include the High School (where successful Grammar school scholarship examinees may be taught without leaving town), Miss Pringle's Milton College (for girls), and the



CONVENT, WARWICK.

School of Arts. The Technical College is a fine new building and a well-conducted institution, only recently opened. There is an excellent Gymnasium, for both male and female pupils, under the management of the Church of England. In addition to its two central squares, Warwick possesses two other parks on the outskirts of the town—viz., the Queen's Park, 40 acres; and the Victoria Park, of 16 acres. A few miles from the town an area of 1,780 acres has been set apart for a National Park, now known as "Morgan Park," and dedicated to the memory of the late James Morgan, M.L.A., for some years member for the town and father of Sir Arthur Morgan, President of the Legislative Council, who was for many years member for Warwick and at one time Premier of Queensland.

Warwick possesses one of the best country Railway Stations in Queensland, built entirely of local freestone. Near it is a grain storage shed, capable of holding 25,000 sacks of wheat or maize. There are also two private grain storage sheds.

This system of building storage sheds for the farmers was inaugurated during the Premiership of Sir Arthur Morgan, and enables the farmer to much more satisfactorily dispose of his wheat or maize than heretofore. Formerly, the farmer, if he got into the hands of the storekeeper, had to

sell under pressure as soon as his grain was threshed. Now, he puts it into the grain shed and obtains a warrant. On this warrant he can secure a cash advance, which enables him to pay off his more pressing liabilities. This system, moreover, prevents a glut and slump in the grain market. Similar sheds of from 8,000 to 15,000 sacks' capacity, are erected in various other centres on the Downs. Regular grain sales are now held in Warwick, at which the millers from all parts of Queensland attend. They inspect the bulk and buy. Formerly, they bought by sample, and frequently the bulk was not up to sample. Now, they come to the centre of production and purchase in bulk.

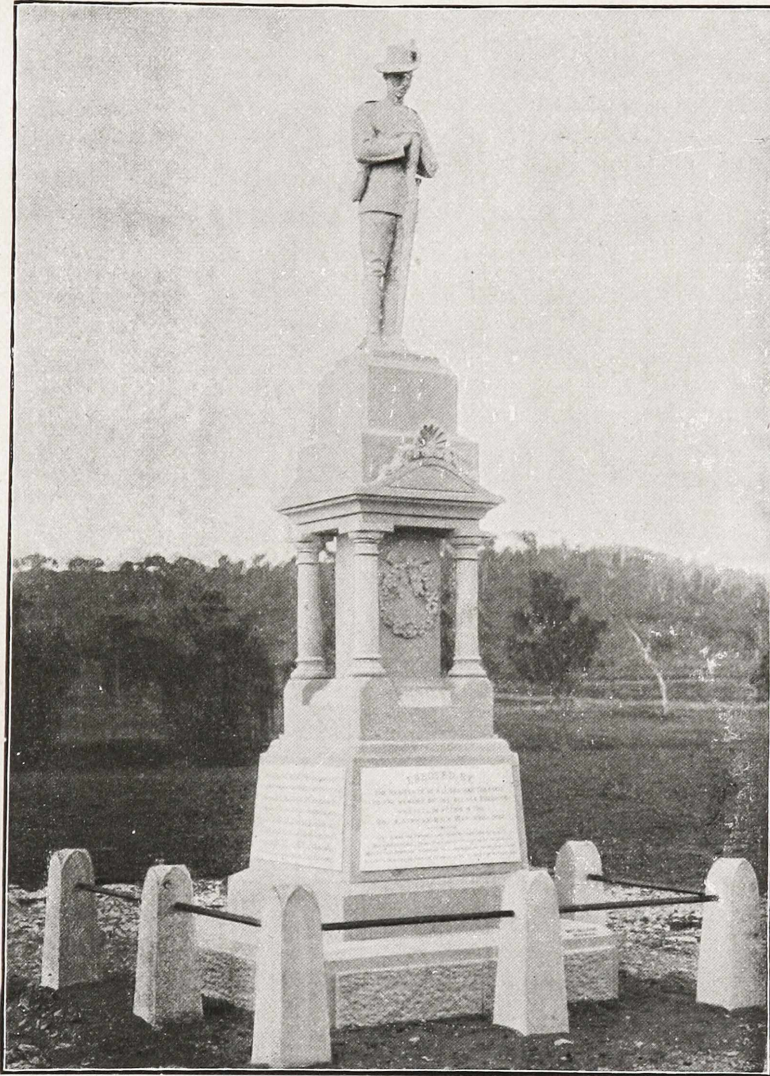
There is a splendid supply of building material, both timber and stone, in the Warwick district. The stone at Yangan is the best in Queensland, the large Executive Building in Brisbane being largely built of this material. The pine and hardwood timber comes principally from Killarney



HON. T. J. BYRNES'S STATUE, WARWICK.

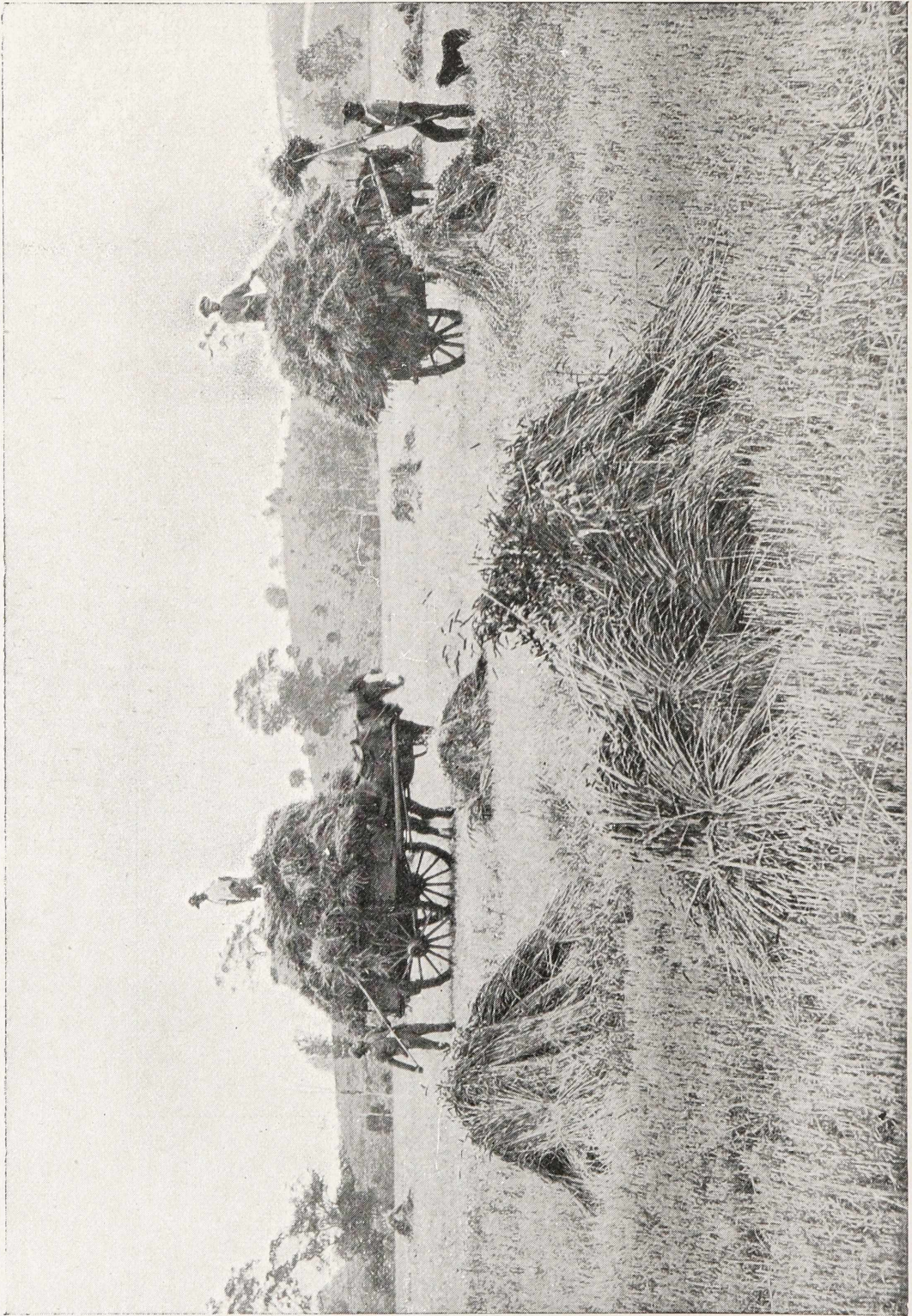
to the east, and the ironbark and other hardwoods from Thane and Pratten to the west. There are two limekilns in the Silverwood district, within 13 miles of Warwick. Brickyards have also been established at Deuchar's Creek and the Sandy Creek road. Excellent stone for building is also obtained within the municipality, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Town Hall. It may safely be said that

there are more stone buildings in Warwick than in any town of its size in Queensland. Marble has also been obtained in the district. The building trade is very brisk, and the supply cannot keep pace with the demand. There are two saw mills in Warwick, and about a dozen scattered through the district. Two flour mills—one belonging to Messrs. Barnes and Co., Ltd., the other a co-operative mill owned by the farmers (the Farmers' Milling Company)—are kept constantly at work. The flour manufactured at these establishments is of the best quality, and commands an extensive sale throughout the State. Both mills have large storage accommodation for grain. The Warwick flour has secured first prize at the Brisbane Exhibition for several years past.



SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL, ALLORA.

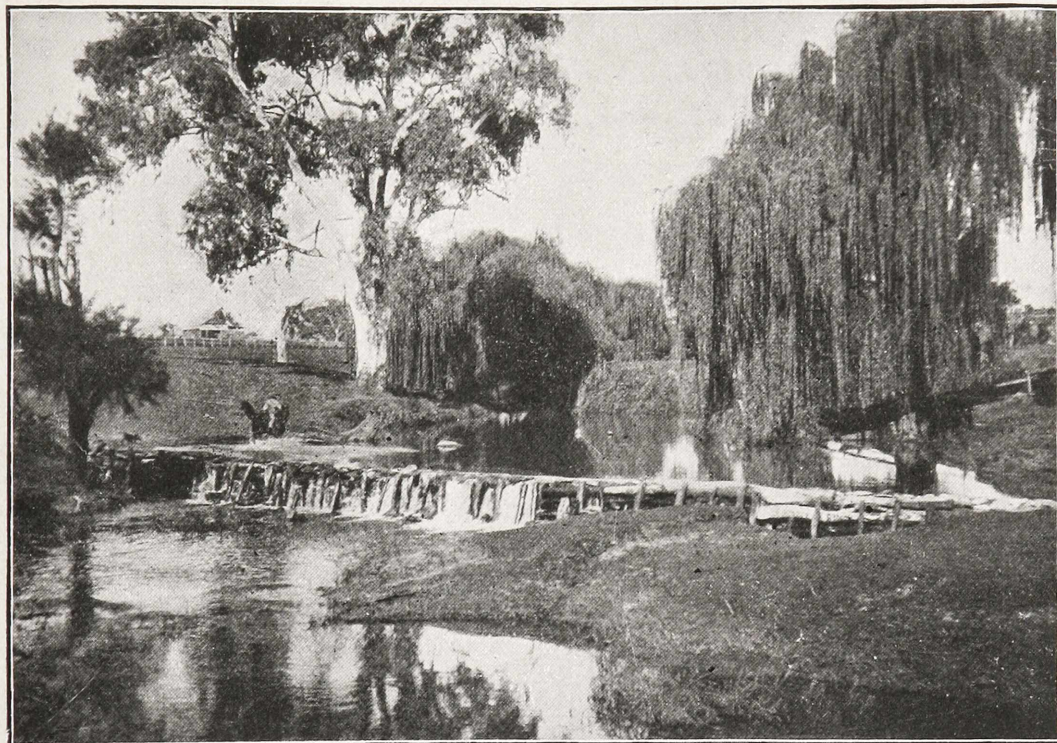
The largest cheese factory in the State has been erected at Warwick. It is capable of turning out $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of cheese per day, and of taking in 3,600 gallons of milk per day. This factory is the property of the Silverwood Dairy Company. Two other large butter-making establishments—one the property of the above-mentioned company, the other a co-operative factory—are also in existence. The co-operative butter factory has been working for some years, and during the last twelve months paid away to the farmers £45,000 for cream. This factory has done a great deal to establish the dairying industry on the footing it is to-day. There are also five other cheese factories in the



HARVESTING SCENE ON THE DARLING DOWNS.

district. The malting industry is also making good headway. Near the Railway Station a malt house (a branch of Messrs. W. Jones and Son's maltings, at Toowoomba) has been built, and affords local barley-growers a steady market for their barley. Amongst other industries an iron foundry, soap manufactory, and three aerated water manufactories may be mentioned.

Warwick, in addition to its Town Council, has also a Chamber of Commerce. Two large local governing bodies, the Glengallan Shire Council and the Rosenthal Shire Council, have their head offices in the town. There are two excellent newspapers—*The Warwick Argus*, and *The Warwick Examiner and Times*. These journals are admirably conducted, and are a credit to the community. There are a score of good hotels in the town, the tariff ranging from 4s. to 8s. per day.

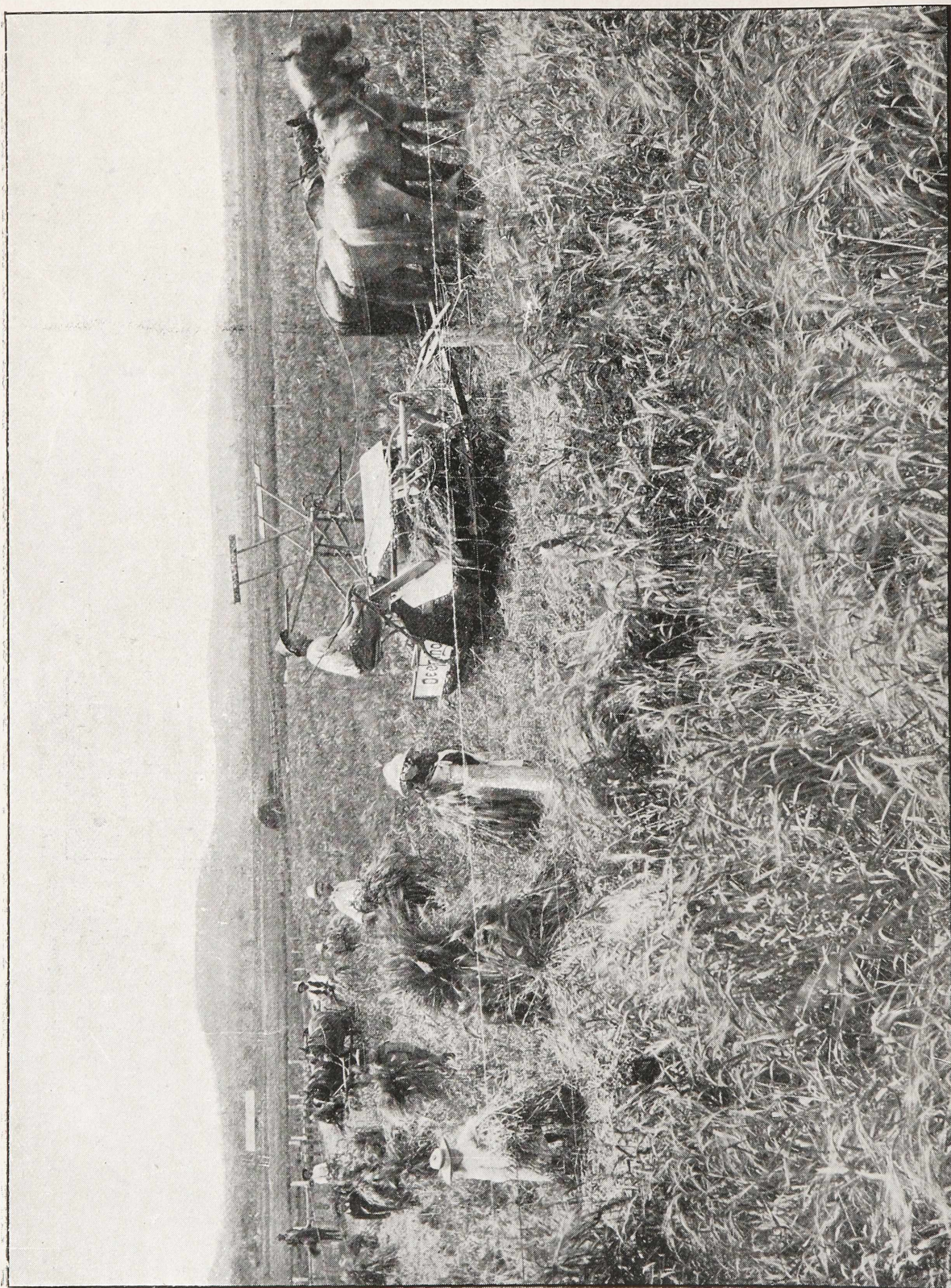


SCENE ON CONDRAMINE, NEAR WARWICK.

It may be interesting to mention that in 1897, the year of the late Queen Victoria's Jubilee, when the late Hon. T. J. Byrnes, then member for Warwick and subsequently Premier of Queensland, visited England, he was the bearer of a silver loving cup from Warwick, Queensland, to Warwick, England. On his return he was the custodian of a similar gift from the old town to the new, which cup now reposes in the local Town Hall.

Manganese is found about 6 miles from Warwick, and copper 15 miles away at Lucky Valley, on Rosenthal Creek. Gold-mining is carried on at Canal Creek, Thane's Creek, and Talgai, about 20 miles to the west; also at Pikedale and Pratten. High class steam coal has been discovered at Tannymorel and in various parts of the district. A number of good vineyards exist in the Warwick neighbourhood; the principal one is Assmanhausen, the property of the trustees of the late Mr. Jacob Kircher, of Sandy Creek. This vineyard dates from 1862.

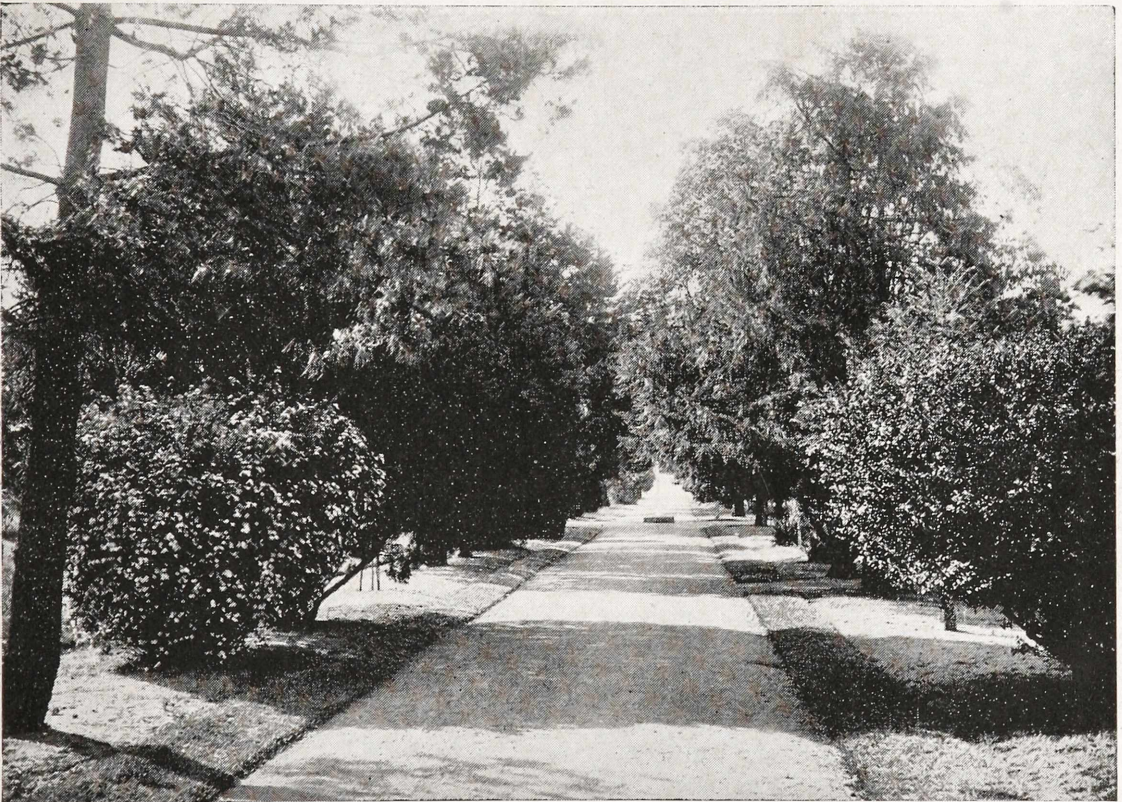
There are several Masonic lodges in the town—English, Scottish, and Queensland—and Oddfellows' and friendly societies. Warwick also is proud of possessing the best Caledonian Society in the State. A Bowkett Building Society is also in existence.



HARVESTING ON THE DARLING DOWNS.

An excellent racecourse is situated about a mile from the Post Office. The town is the most flourishing racing centre outside of Brisbane, and the district is a prominent province for the breeding of thoroughbreds. The blood horse Ladurlad, by Ladas, an English Derby winner, has his home here at Lyndhurst, the property of C. E. McDougall, Esq. There are three racing clubs, also cricket, football, tennis, rifle, and athletic clubs. Plenty of coursing, shooting, and fishing is obtainable in the neighbourhood.

Thirty years ago Warwick was hemmed in by large private estates, which restricted settlement to the small areas outside of them. The town consequently made little progress. In 1894 the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act was passed, which empowered the Government to repurchase large estates for close settlement. Previously farming was confined to the small agricultural reserves at Freestone Creek, Emu Creek, Swan Creek, Sandy Creek, Emu Vale, Gladfield, North Toolburra, Rosenthal, South Toolburra, Darkey Flat, and Killarney. Of late years, however, the fertile lands comprised in North Toolburra and Glengallan have been opened by the Government; and the huge estate of Canning Downs, containing some 68,000 acres of the finest agricultural soil in Queensland



SOUTH SQUARE, WARWICK.

and coming to within a mile of the town, has been cut up and sold privately by the owners. Every acre has been rushed and settled on, and the impetus given to the town and district has been remarkable. Moreover, in the last twelve years a tendency has been manifested to invest money in land rather than to lock it up in banks. Then, again, the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act, which made available large estates, has resulted in thousands of families settling in homes of their own. On the top of this came the establishment of the dairying industry, which had very far-reaching effects, enabling the farmer to earn a regular monthly cheque for his cream besides what he obtained for his crops, and sending up the value of land threefold. In addition, since the introduction of the

bonus on sugar, which has made sugar-growing a much more profitable industry than heretofore, many of the coast lands in Queensland and Northern New South Wales have gone out of maize into sugar, thus creating a greater demand for Downs maize than existed previously, and giving the Downs maizegrower a steadier and better market. Maize lands on the coast have also gone into dairying, which has accentuated the situation.



PLOUGHING.

The position of the Downs farmer is, therefore, very much improved. His land gives him a far greater return than before; and, although land has increased in price, farms are cheaper to-day at a higher figure than formerly at a lower price.

Maryvale Station, about 20 miles distant to the north-east, will, in all probability, be cut up for settlement. It consists of 29,000 acres suited for dairying and agriculture. Rainfall, about 30 inches per annum.

There is a great future for Warwick as the centre of a dairying, lamb-raising, maize-growing, wheat and barley producing, pig-raising, and horse-breeding district. The average rainfall for the last forty-one years has been 29·5 points per annum.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE WARWICK DISTRICT.

There were last year six irrigation plants in Warwick and district, and 99 acres were treated, the crops being vegetables and lucerne.

Warwick last year had 52 acres of grape vines, 46 of which were bearing, and the weight of the grapes gathered was 132,144 lb. The crop was nearly 30,000 lb. heavier than that of the previous year, though the area of vines was 11 acres less.

Six hundred and sixteen landowners in Warwick district last year had cultivation areas aggregating 38,560 acres. Thirty-four of the areas were under 5 acres, 119 over 5 and under 20

acres, 158 over 20 and under 50 acres, and 305 of 50 acres and over. Killarney returned 15,326 acres, the owners numbering 223. Fifteen areas were under 5 acres, 35 between 5 and under 20 acres, 67 between 20 and 50 acres, and 106 were 50 acres and over.

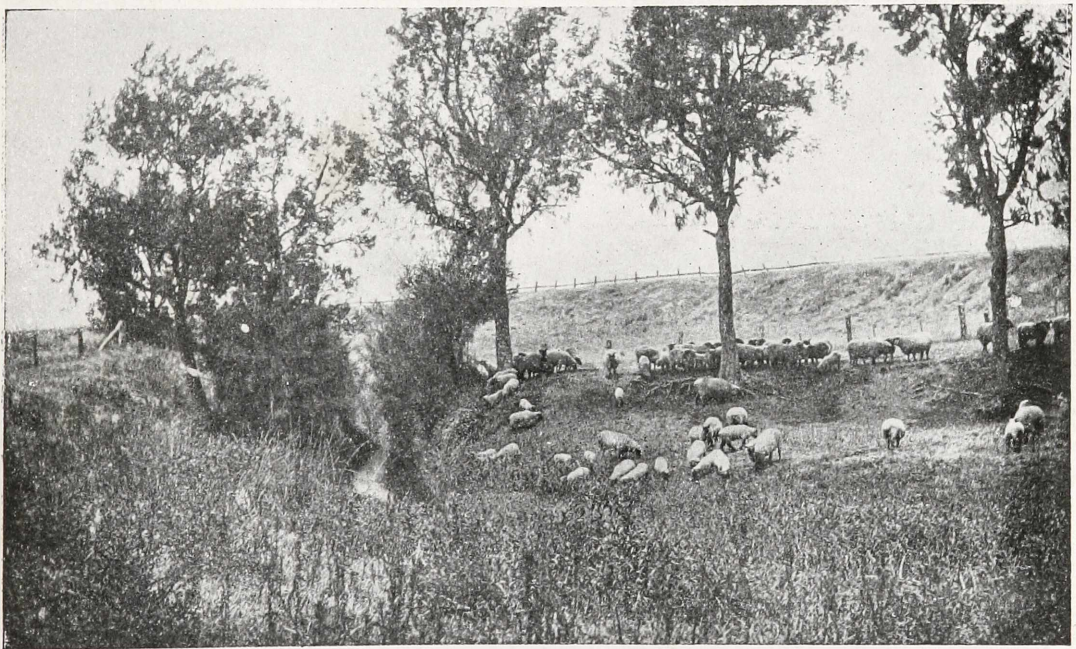
The value of the machinery and implements on farms in the petty sessions districts named below was returned at the following amounts at the end of last year:—Warwick: Farming, £62,049; dairying, £6,021; irrigation, £630; total £68,700. Allora: Farming, £30,067; dairying, £3,325; irrigation, £390; total, £33,782. Clifton: Farming, £42,222; dairying, £3,820; total, £46,052. Killarney: Farming, £20,144; dairying, £2,417; total, £22,561.

The Downs tobacco crop last year amounted to 6,360 lb. of dried leaf, the produce of 653 acres.

During 1906 Warwick returned 163 establishments handling cream only, and 230 handling cream and butter, the butter output being 1,810,475 lb., while five establishments turned out 622,140 lb. of cheese. In Killarney district 37 establishments handled cream only, and 67 cream and butter, the output of butter and cheese being 15,836 lb. and 262,736 lb. respectively.

A CHAIN OF VALLEYS.

To the north-east and east of Warwick stretches a chain of settlement on some of the finest land in Queensland. These settlements—irrespective of the Canning Downs farms, which form a hive of industry in the intervening country between Warwick and Killarney—consist of the old-established farming centres of Freestone Creek, Swan Creek, Yangan, Emuval, &c., a succession of fertile valley



SHROPSHIRE SHEEP, HERMITAGE STATE FARM.

lands and gradual slopes surmounted by a dark range of hills. The soil on the flats is chiefly black, containing a percentage of decomposed sandstone, which makes it more easily worked, and enables it to retain the moisture; whilst the soil on the slopes is rich chocolate, cultivated to the summits of the mountains.

These valleys vary in extent, the largest being about 10 miles by 4 miles, but, linked together, they form a continuous belt of thick settlement from Freestone Creek to Killarney, a distance of



WHEAT COUNTRY, YANGAN VALLEY.

about 30 miles. A large proportion of these lands were once unreclaimed scrub, thought to be useless by the early squatters who took up the grass country. Now, the beauty of these valleys, with their

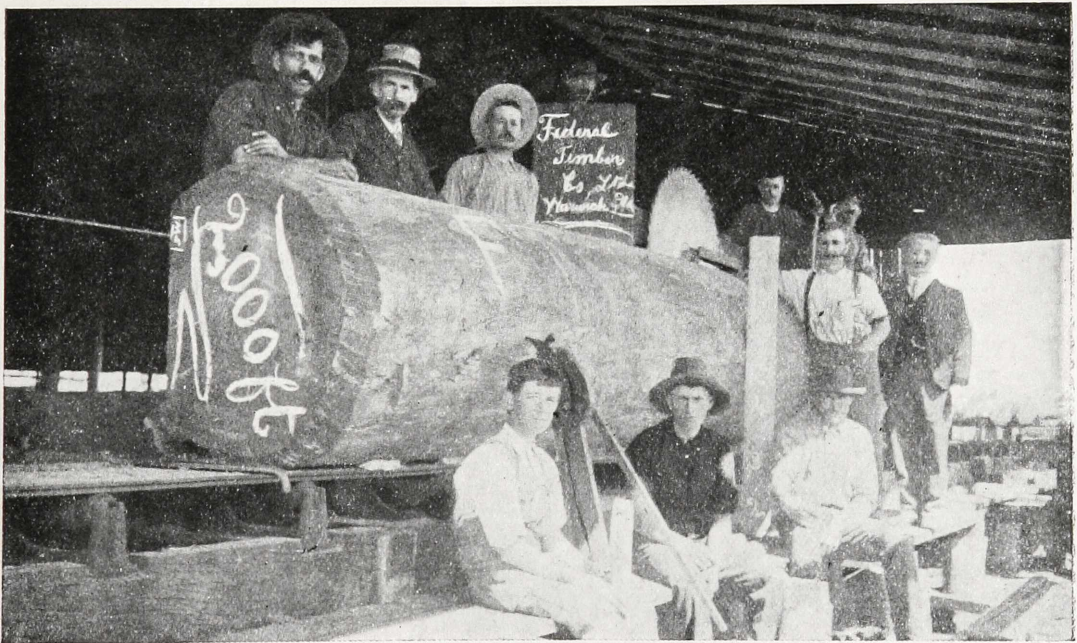


SHEEP ON LUCERNE, MOUNT STURT.

tiny townships, white homesteads, and well-tilled farms, waving with golden grain or green lucerne, which spread like a chess board around the foothills or climb the adjacent acclivities of the purple

mountains, is indescribable. The belt of country from the Hermitage to beyond Emu Vale is like a beautiful garden. The Yangan Valley itself is a perfect picture. No pen, however graphic, no photograph, however distinct, could do justice to these divine cameos of Nature. They require the brush of the artist.

Five to ten tons of potatoes and 70 to 100 bushels of maize to the acre have been obtained from these scrub lands, and wheat varying from 20 to 40 bushels. Land varies in price from £5 to £15, according to quality. An offer of £30 an acre for a 30-acre lucerne paddock at Lower Swan Creek failed to lead to business. At Swan Creek stories are told of men who took up scrub lands in the early days without a halfpenny, having even to borrow seed and their deposit money, and yet in a few years were making their way. Proximity to the Main Range ensures a liberal rainfall, about 30 inches per annum being the average. All the farmers are independent men, with well-built homesteads, and the greater number drive their own buggies. The fact that none of them want to sell their holdings is the best testimony of the prosperity of the district. Dairying is now universal over this country, but large quantities of maize, wheat, potatoes, barley, and lucerne are produced. Lamb-raising is also a coming industry. One farmer, at Tannymorel, Mr. Thomas Hall, recently shored a Lincoln-Shropshire merino lamb, two years old, the fleece being 15 lb. in weight. The lamb itself weighed 240 lb., live weight. The mutton was worth 6d. per lb., and the wool 10d. per lb.; the value of the lamb, therefore, was nearly £6. The fleece was sent home to Ireland for exhibition to Belfast manufacturers as a sample of what lambs can produce in this district.



A BIG LOG.

Hemmed in on three sides by mountains, a tract of country, comprising some 68,000 acres, now all subdivided into farms of from 160 acres to 1,000 acres, stretches east from Warwick to Killarney. A few years ago this was Canning Downs Station—a land of undulating downs and open forests, rich flats and valleys. Now it is a nest of settlement coming to within a mile of Warwick, and you can drive the 22 miles to Killarney without getting out of sight of a house. The land was cut up and sold at £3 to £15 per acre, but has since greatly advanced in price, and none of the holders are disposed to sell.



ENSLAND

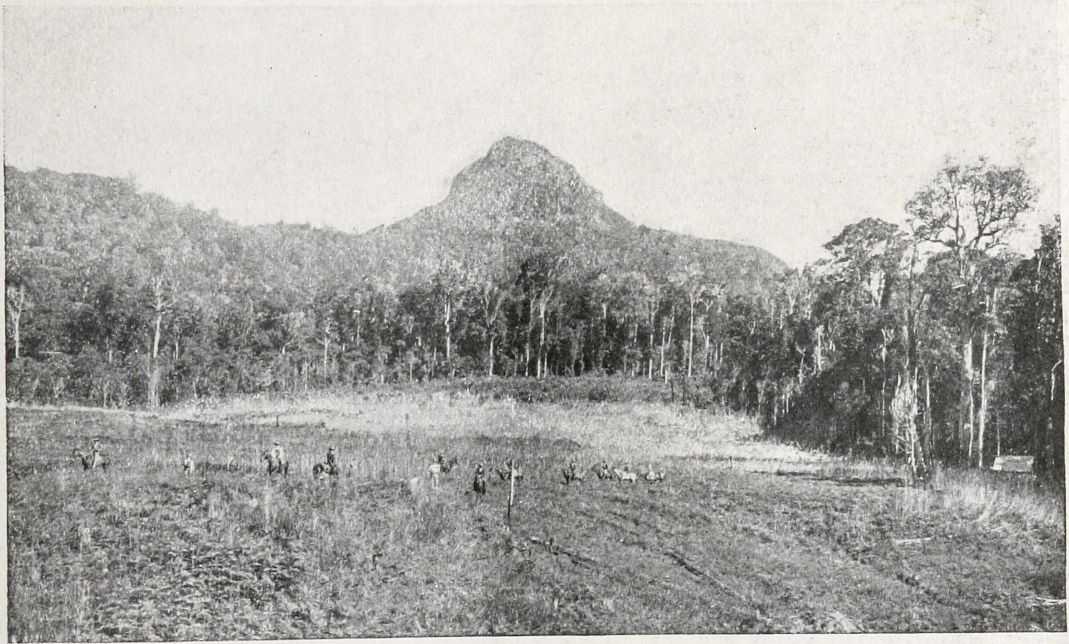
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EMU VALE WATERFALL, 404 FEET.

The soil on these beautiful farms is deep alluvial along the valleys, whilst the uplands are composed of red-coloured volcanic matter. The pick of the land includes the farms from Picnic Hill to Killarney on one side, and from Picnic Hill to Swan Creek on the other. One of the prettiest drives about Warwick is through these picturesque settlements, with their wheat and lucerne paddocks and haystacks, on what was once Canning Downs sheep and cattle run.

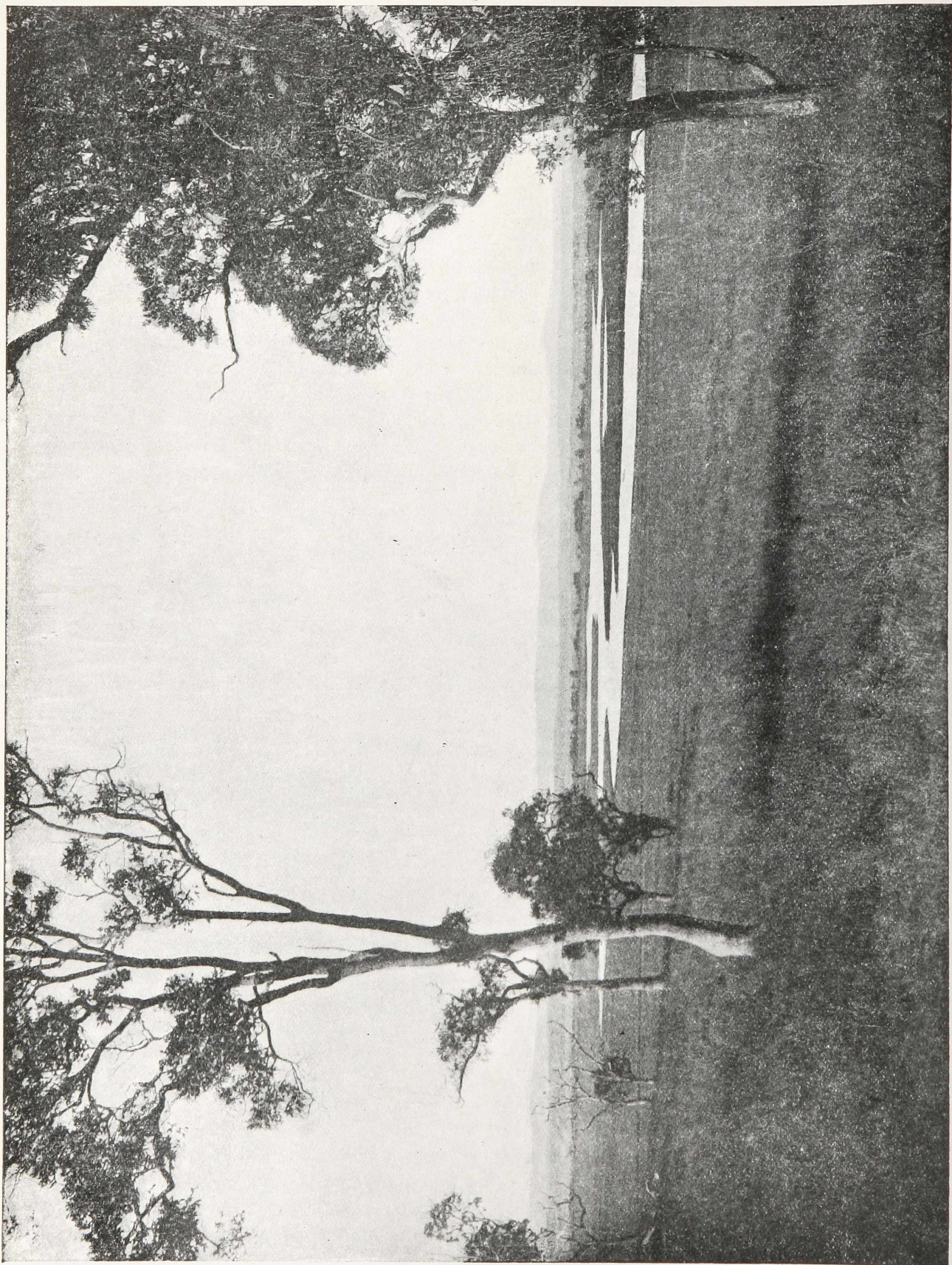
A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW.

EAST of Emu Vale and Tannymorel, and north-east of Killarney, rises a tableland some 800 feet above the farming settlements beneath. It comprises about 10,000 acres of rich vine scrub, heavily timbered with pine (a large portion of it, if cleared, being level enough for the plough), and fairly watered in ordinary seasons by running streams. The heads of Emu Creek, Dolly's Creek, and Farm Creek, rising on the Main Range, which is the eastern boundary of the plateau, run westwards through this country. Their waters, descending to the lower ground in glittering fligree of spray, form the cascades known as Dolly's Creek and Farm Creek Falls, of an altitude of 300 feet and 600 feet respectively. Selections were taken up on this tableland a good many years ago, principally for the cedar, an enormous amount of which has been removed. There are two roads to the top; one from Emu Vale, very steep, which would require an outlay of several hundred



WILSON'S PEAK, KILLARNEY.

pounds before being fit for traffic; the other from Killarney, which reaches the plateau at this point called Sunday Plain. Here a magnificent panorama of the whole of the farming settlement on what used to be Canning Downs Estate, and even of the land beyond Warwick, can be obtained on a clear day. Looking west and south-west, the wide cultivated areas unroll before you, and you can trace the various settlements for 40 miles. Almost immediately at your feet, like two huge shields, lie the magnificent sheets of water known as Killarney Lake and Black Swan Lagoon, covered with countless wild fowl. Beyond them the course of the Condamine, with its bold south-westerly sweep from Killarney to the distant roof tops of Warwick, shining like a shower of silver in the strong sunlight, is clearly defined; away to the south-west the purple outline of the Parrot's Gap Range,



BLACK SWAN LAGOON.

dividing the waters of Rosenthal Creek from Lord John Swamp and Lucky Valley, is silhouetted against the sky. Slightly to the right, Mount Sturt, with its multi-coloured patches of cultivation, rises as from a gigantic chess board; whilst



NELSON'S FALLS.

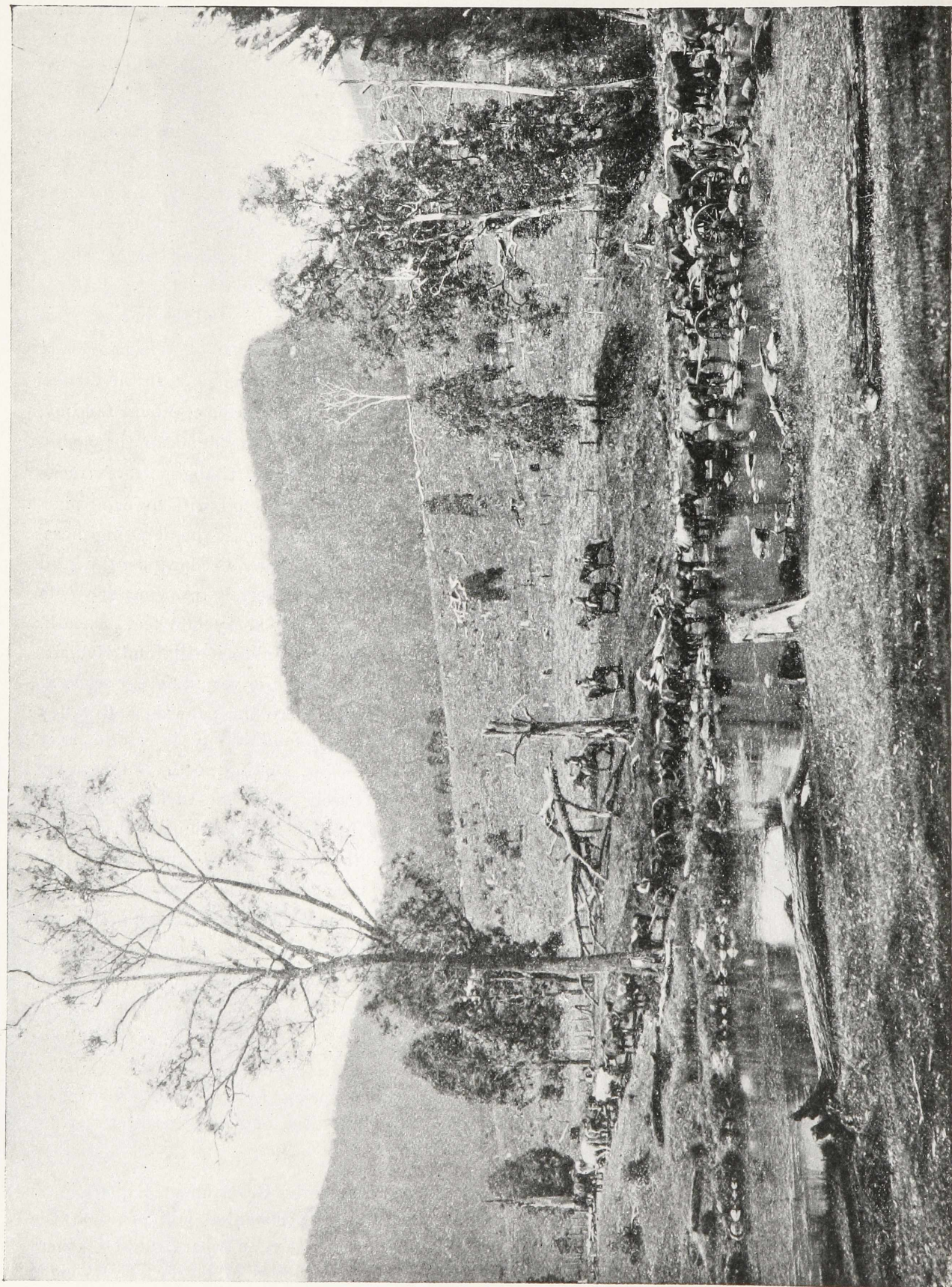
across the fertile plains of Canning Downs you can trace the tributary creeks on their course from the Main Range to join the river. Turning to the east, the eye follows the rugged gorge of the Condamine, with its picturesque precipices closing in on either bank, to the magnificent agricultural slopes at the head of the river, whilst beyond rises like a sentinel the cone of Wilson's Peak, whence the Teviot springs, and in the distant south the gloomy grandeur of Mount Lindsay. Striking across the tableland to the north-east, you travel along timber-getters' tracks through rich red scrub soil, with towering pine-trees on either hand, past the decaying moss-covered stump of many a cedar, past the head of Farm Creek Waterfall throwing down its curtains of silver spray 600 feet beneath, past numberless tinkling rills and rivulets, until you emerge on a very different scene at Con's Plains. Here the panorama of valley and billowy mountain-top is all densely wooded. Below, looking north, is the valley of Emu Creek, with its various branches emerging from the Main Range. Prominent amongst these, rise three equi-distant pinacles of rock called "The Steamer." Beyond, the eye catches the fertile valley at the ex-

treme head of Swan Creek, named from its inaccessibility Hell Hole; whilst for a background rise, threateningly, Mount Mitchell and Spicer's Peak, twin guardians of Cunningham's Gap.

ALONG THE KILLARNEY RAILWAY LINE.

ONE of the most picturesque branch lines in Queensland runs in a series of curves from Warwick to Killarney. It creeps along the bases of the foothills for about 28 miles, and no pleasanter trip for a visitor could be devised.

At the Hermitage, 5 miles by rail from Warwick, is situated the Government Experimental Farm, on Swan Creek. Here all kinds of cereals and plants are experimented with; so that the farmers can get practical tests free of cost. About 40 different varieties of wheat, most of them hybridised wheats, averaging 30 to 35 bushels per acre; eleven varieties of barley; thirty-eight



CROSSING, UPPER CONDAMINE, KILLARNEY.

varieties of potatoes, besides sorghums, cotton, maize, mangolds, pumpkins, fruit, and vegetables, are grown. The land is on a gentle slope towards Swan Creek—the soil a rich brown with a percentage of decomposed sandstone. A number of grasses are being experimented with, including thirty-six varieties from the United States. A silo, capable of holding 120 tons, has been erected on the farm. This was filled with chaffed sorghum from 9 acres—the crop going 14 tons to the acre—and the ensilage was made at a cost, including seed, of 5s. 3d. per ton. Now that dairying is universal on the Downs, it is imperative that our farmers should devote more attention to the manufacture of this fodder to tide them over dry spells, especially as the cost is so trifling. At the farm may be seen the flock of 50 stud merino ewes presented to the Government by W. B. Slade, Esq., from the celebrated Glengallan flock. This flock is descended in direct line from Imperial Spanish merinos, and was founded in 1855. The presentation was made to enable the Government to keep up the original strain of the pure-woolled merino. Good types of pigs—Berkshire and Middle Yorkshires—as well as good types of cows and poultry are also kept on the farm.

At the Hermitage, students desirous of learning to farm are taken, and comfortable quarters have been provided for them. These are chiefly sons of farmers who are not in a position to pay the fees (£26 a year) at the Agricultural College at Gatton. The farm students remain for three years, and receive a small wage after the first twelve months.

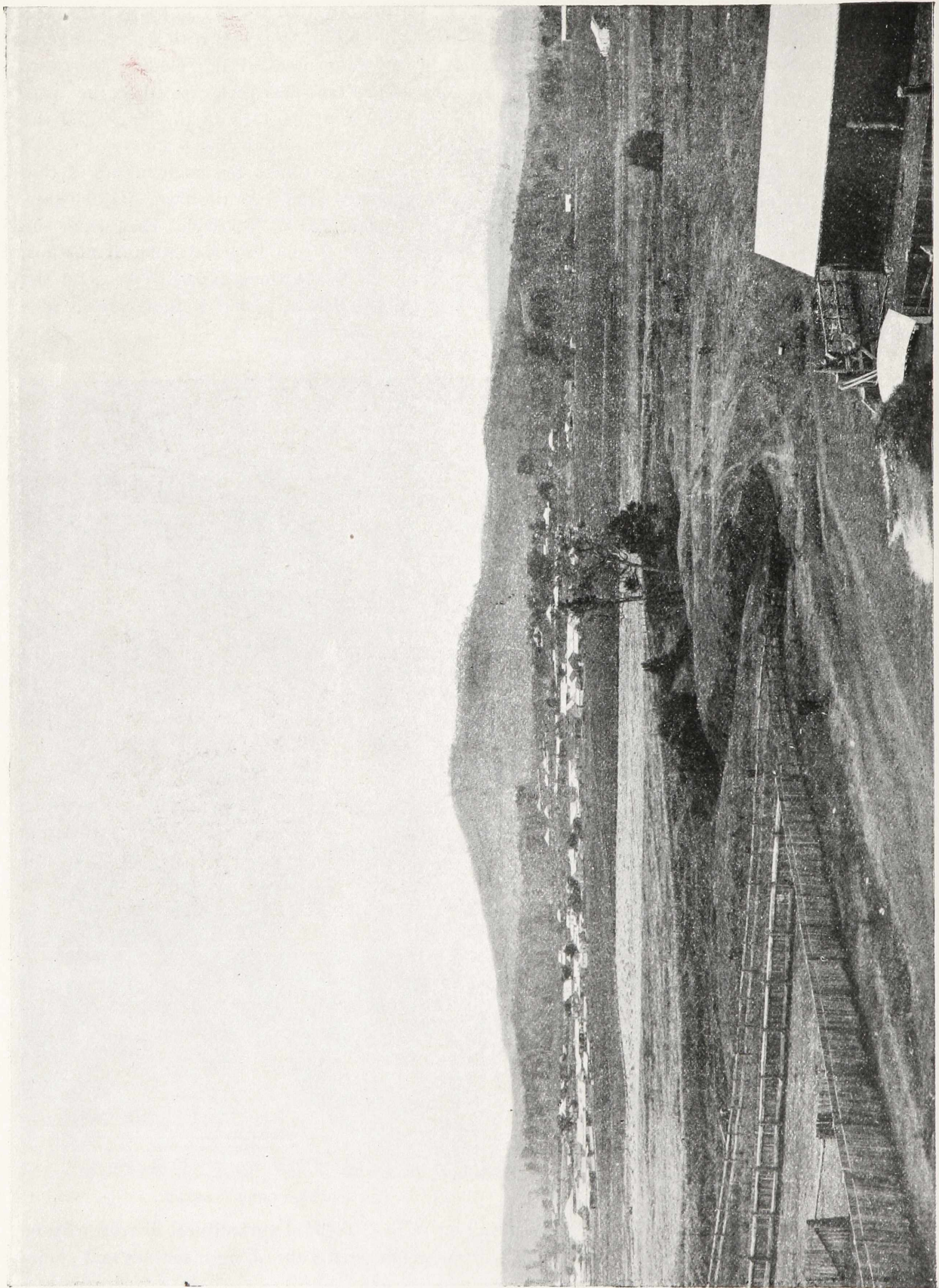
At Yangan, 13 miles by rail from Warwick, there is quite a township at the mouth of the celebrated Yangan valley. It consists of churches, State school, School of Arts, Salvation Army Barracks, two hotels, bank (Queensland National, Ltd.), Police Station, Public Hall, and numerous business premises. There are two cheese factories—the Silverwood and the Lowood—both doing a large business. The farms up this very fertile valley average about 160 acres in area. In addition to dairying, it is a great wheat and maize centre. One paddock at Yangan has been continuously cropped with wheat for thirty years, without any fertiliser being used, and is still growing magnificent crops in ordinary seasons.

At Tannymorel, a good farming settlement, there is a flourishing colliery, supplying a splendid class of coal to the Government railways and elsewhere. A cheese factory and two hotels are also in evidence.

Some idea of the amount of production going on in this splendid agricultural district may be gathered from the fact that there are no less than twenty-eight steam threshing machines and plants between Warwick and Killarney.



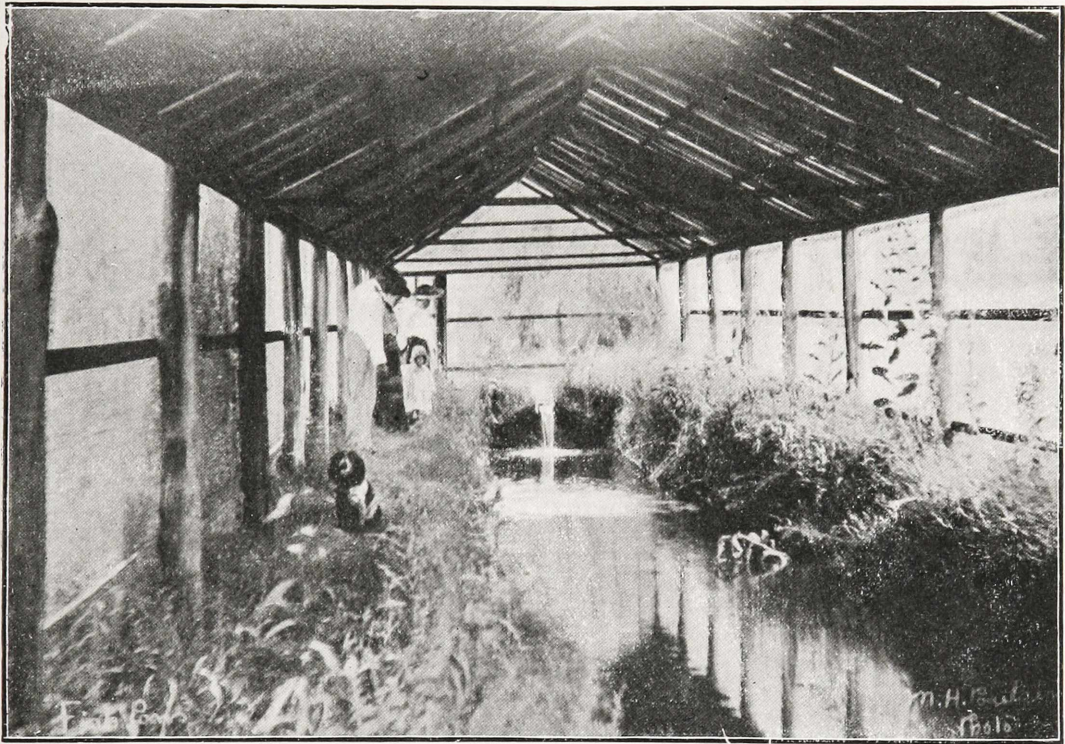
CASCADE, NELSON'S CREEK.



KILLARNEY.

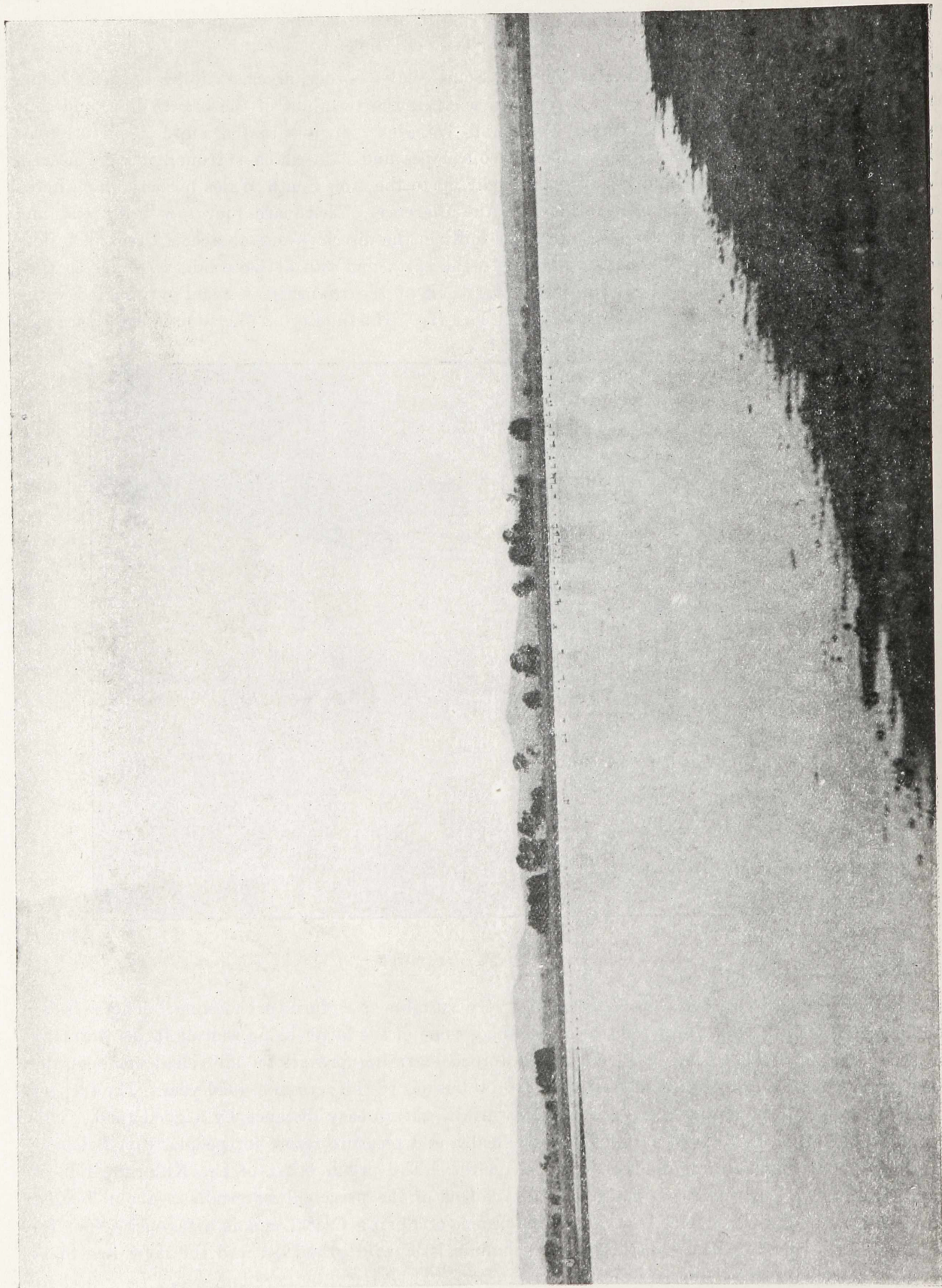
KILLARNEY.

THE township of Killarney, 2 miles from the New South Wales border, about 12 miles from the head of the Condamine, and 28 miles by rail from Warwick, is the terminus of the branch line, and the most populous centre between Wilson's Peak and Warwick. It is situated amid a picturesque amphitheatre of hills. Formerly, the rich blacksoil slopes and flats which surround it were nearly all dense scrub, but now the land is cultivated right up to the New South Wales border, which here is the watershed between the Condamine and the Clarence. There are four saw mills and an extensive timber trade. There are also other saw mills in the district—one at Acacia Creek, 4 miles to the south; three at White Swamp, 15 miles to the east; and two at Koreelah, 15 miles to the south-east. Some of the mountain country at the back of the township is heavily timbered with pine, there being some miles of pine forest in one locality. The quality of the pine is excellent, the



TROUT HATCHERY, KILLARNEY.

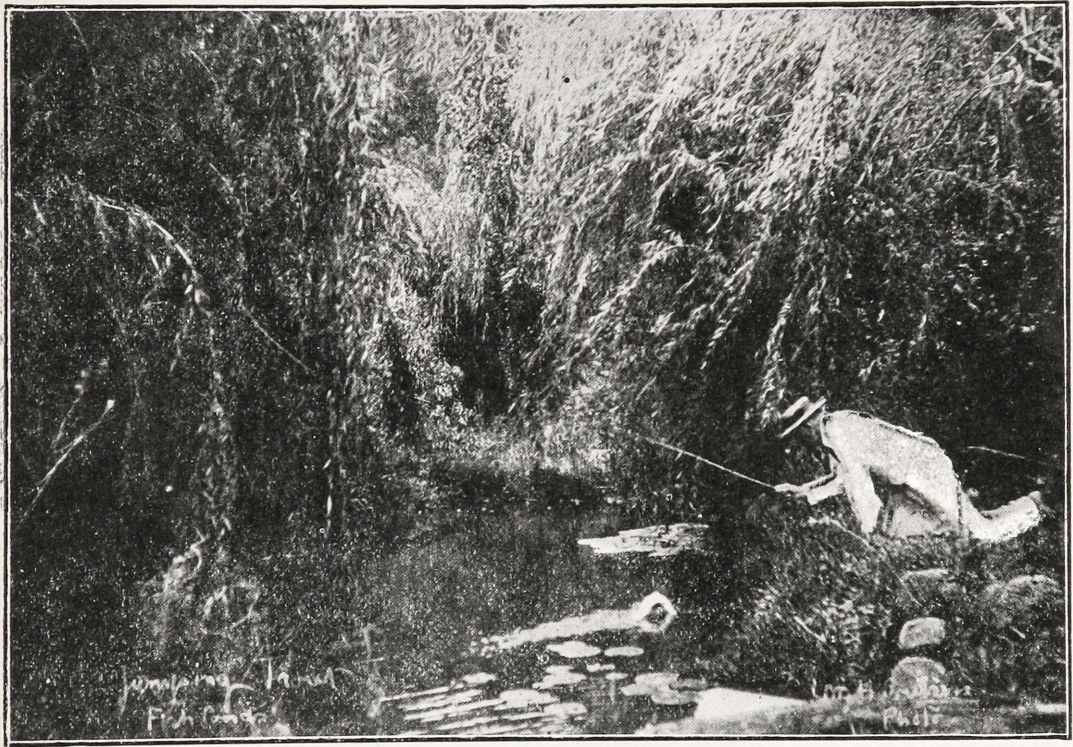
trees being very large and the wood soft, and very suitable for furniture-making. There is an abundance of the ordinary hardwoods, also rosewood, some of the latter being sent as far as Germany for piano manufacture. Close settlement and intense farming prevail on all sides; some of the wheat paddocks having returned 32, 40, and even 50 bushels to the acre in a good year. The scenery is extremely picturesque, and there are three waterfalls within easy distance by a good road. This is making Killarney more and more a favourite health and pleasure resort for people from Brisbane and the coastal districts during the summer months. The proud boast of the Killarney folk is that there are "no mosquitoes" in their locality. One of the principal waterfalls is about 3 miles from Killarney Railway Station, on the south branch of Spring Creek, and is a favourite spot for picnics. The scenery up the gorge of the Condamine is of wild grandeur, and the river has to be crossed nineteen times in 8 or 10 miles.



KILLARNEY LAKE.

Killarney is a very scattered township, half of it being situated round the Railway Station and the other half across the river on the southern side. It contains three banks—the Australian Joint Stock, Ltd., the Queensland National, Ltd., and Commercial of Sydney, Ltd.; three churches—Presbyterian, Methodist, and Church of England; Court House and Police Barracks, Post Office, four hotels, four saw mills, four stores, a newspaper—*The Killarney Advocate*—school of arts, State school with an attendance of about 140, two public halls, and numerous shops, business premises, and residences. The population is about 1,200, and of the district about 3,000 to 4,000. The town is principally supported by the timber industry, agriculture, dairying, and coal-mining. Wheat, maize, barley, and lucerne are extensively grown. It is a pig-raising district, and lamb-breeding is also on the up-grade, many small farmers combining it with dairying.

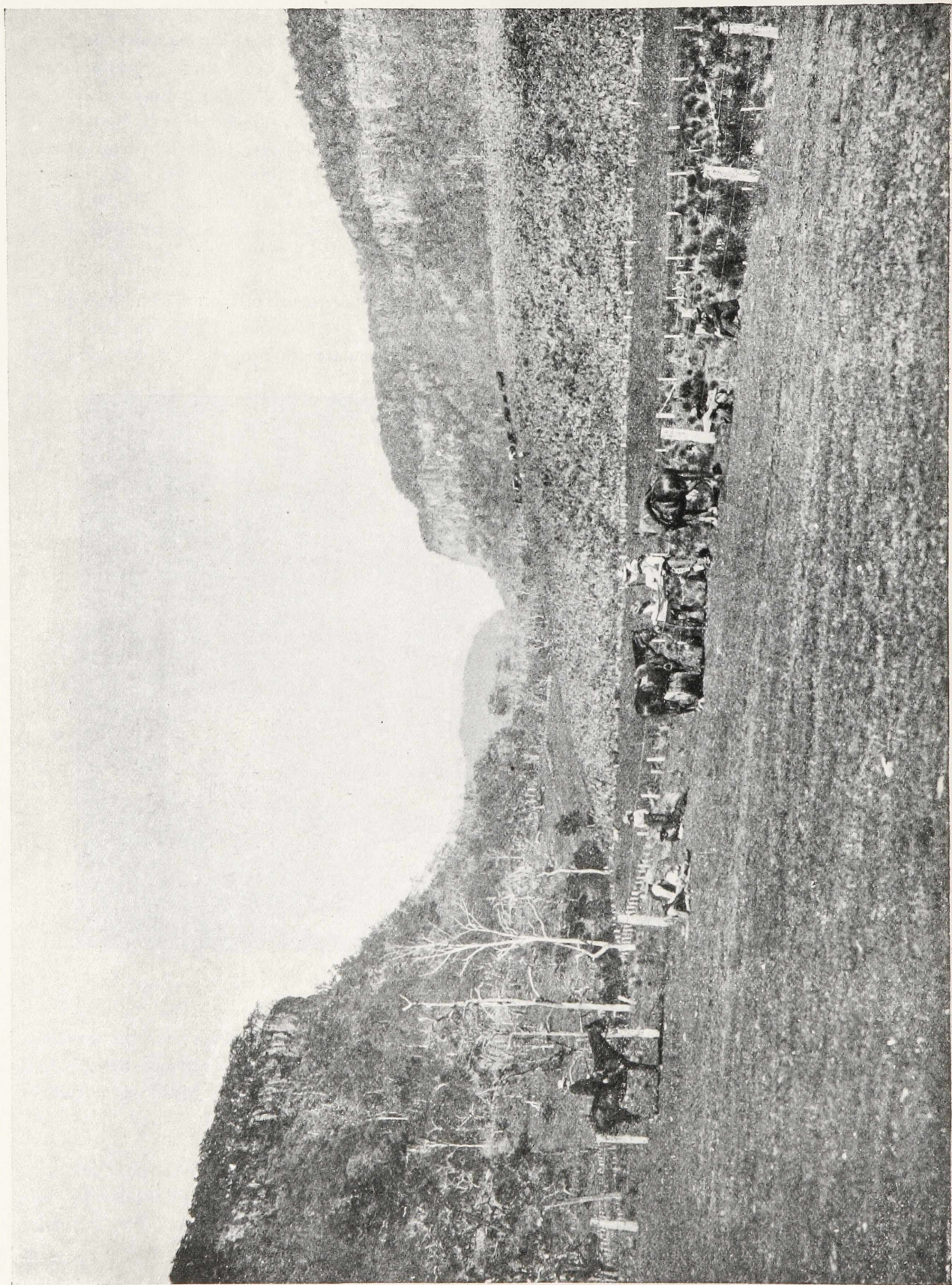
Owing to its proximity to the border, Killarney enjoys a fair share of the adjacent New South Wales trade. A big co-operative butter factory has been erected at Acacia Creek, in New South Wales, about 5 miles south of the township, which will stimulate its progress. A hatchery and



TROUT FISHING.

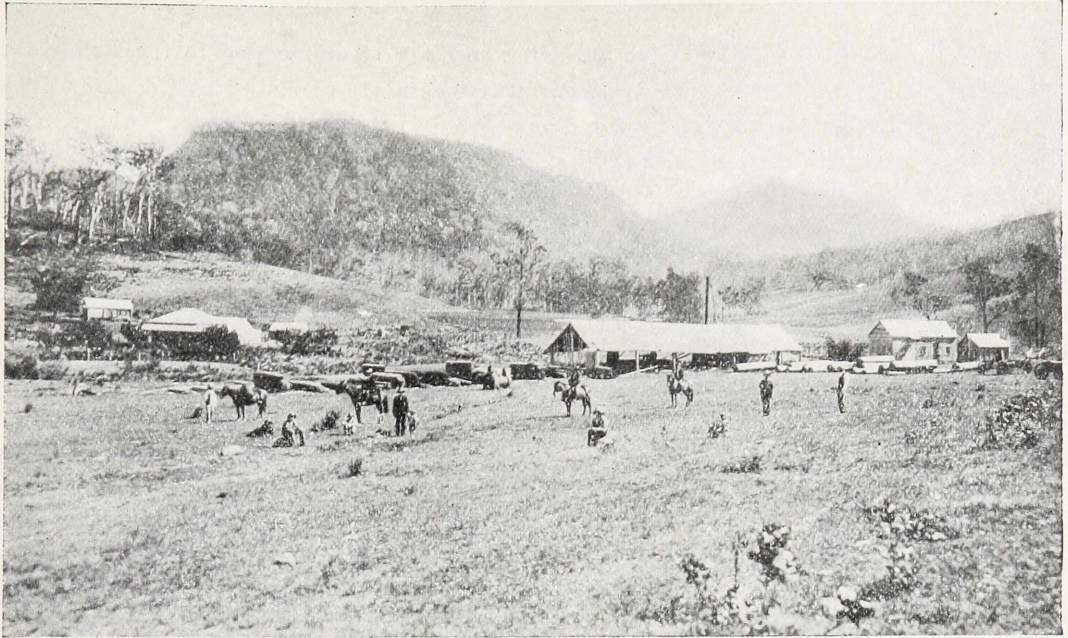
breeding ponds for trout have been established on Spring Creek, about 3 or 4 miles from the township. They are bred for sale by Mr. W. G. Morris, who conducts a boarding establishment there. This gentleman also proposes to stock one of the local streams with trout, thus affording a further attraction to votaries of the rod who may be visiting the district.

A fine stretch of country, known as Killarney Plain, containing over 3,000 acres, runs right up to the township on one side. The Condamine traverses this tract, which is all subdivided into small holdings. Some of these river frontages are exceedingly fertile lucerne lands. You can drive for 22 miles, from Killarney to Warwick, through magnificent farms, all of which were once old grazing paddocks of Canning Downs.



CAMBANORA GAP,

From Killarney to the head of the river is chiefly timbered country. The Condamine rises about 12 miles from the township, and at an altitude of 1,000 feet above it. It comes down—a



MOUNT NELSON, KILLARNEY.

clear winding stream over stony bottoms—through a gorge with almost perpendicular walls. Close to the source the country opens out into free forest, with magnificently rich chocolate soil surrounded



TREE FERNS, KILLARNEY.

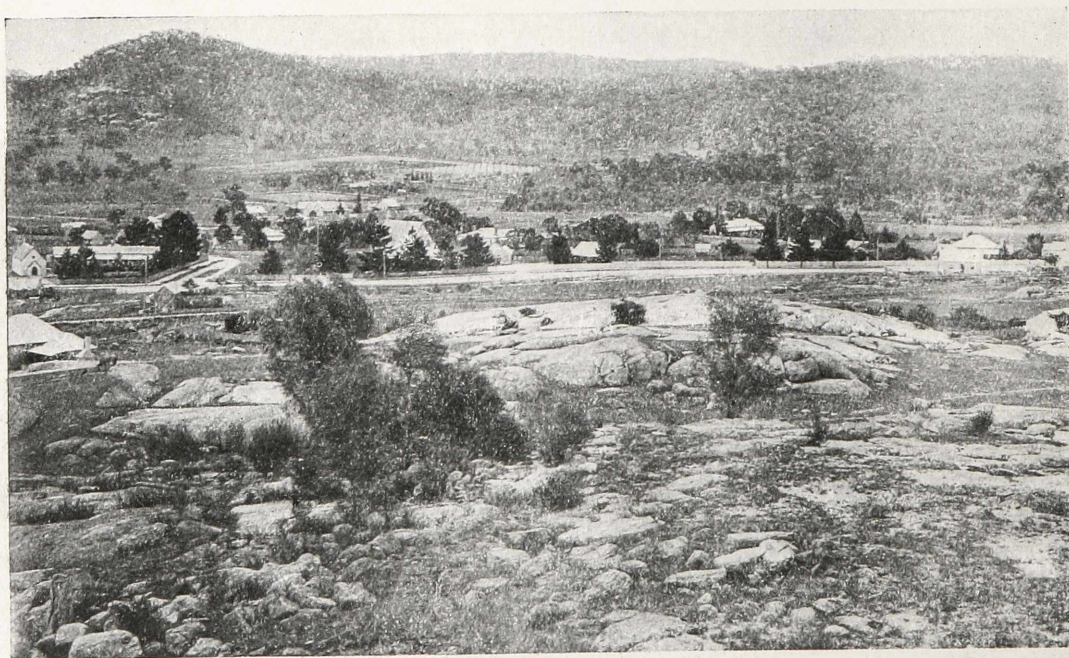
by dense scrub. The heads of the Clarence, the Logan, and the Condamine, which all really start from Wilson's Peak, are here within easy distance of one another.

The Killarney people are hoping to get a railway extension to the head of the river and thence to Boonah, 40 miles. This would make available a large area of land suitable for dairying, as well as open up 50,000,000 feet of pine, rosewood, and other hardwoods, as well as the fine coal lands near the river's source.

Visitors in search of a picturesque holiday resort are recommended to try Killarney. They can find plenty of pleasant excursions—to the trout ponds and waterfalls; to the lakes on Canning Downs, and to Black Swan Lagoon; to Sunday Plain, north of Killarney, where a beautiful panoramic view can be obtained from the top of the tableland; and up the gorge of the Condamine to its source. All this mountain district is a region of waterfalls.

STANTHORPE AND DISTRICT.

AFTER the train leaves Warwick, on its journey to Sydney, the rich agricultural lands fall rapidly behind you as you plunge into mountainous and timbered country, ever rising higher as you go. Past Silverwood, Cherry Gully, Maryland, and Dalveen, you whirl on through rough uninteresting scenery, and yet you notice that the air grows finer and fresher every moment. Now you are at Thulimbah, 3,008 feet above the sea, where the air is like dry champagne. You feel fitter and brighter every minute. The lassitude of the coastal belt falls from your nerves. The train rushes downwards through the keen air of the granite country, and you find yourself at Stanthorpe, the centre of a large mineral, fruit-growing, and pastoral district.



VIEW OF STANTHORPE.

Situated 207 miles from Brisbane, 106 miles from Toowoomba, and 2,656 feet above the sea, Stanthorpe was founded in 1872 through a large find of alluvial tin. So large was the find, indeed, that £4,000,000 of tin has been taken out of the ground. But not only tin abounds—silver, lead, copper, wolfram, molybdenite, and plumbago are all found in the district. The area of mineral lands around the town is computed at 550 square miles. The whole of the granite belt is alluvial tin-mining

country; and the lodes of copper, tin, lead, and silver are all in the altered slate (diorite) country. Wool, hides, sheep, and cattle from the stations to the West, fruit from the orchards



ANOTHER VIEW OF STANTHORPE

bordering the railway line, and tobacco from Texas help to build up the trade of the town. Now that the Goondiwindi line has reached Inglewood, some part of the trade, chiefly wool, stock, and



IN A STANTHORPE ORCHARD.

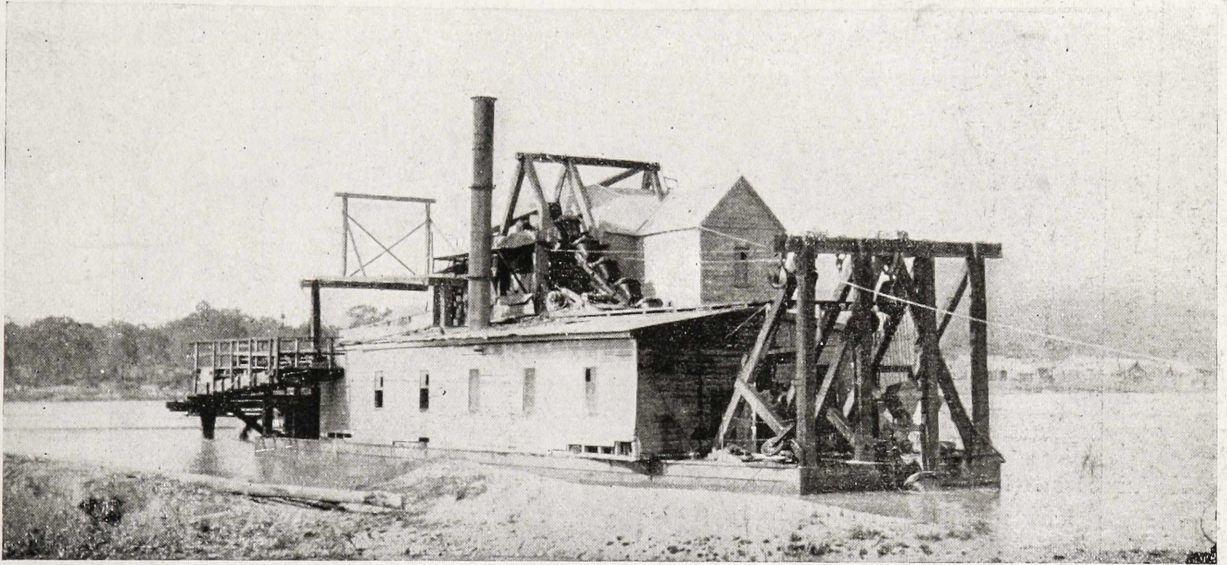
tobacco, will be diverted. The mineral output and the large fruit production, however, will always be the backbone of Stanthorpe.



DAGG'S FALLS, KILLARNEY.

The town, with a population of about 2,000, stands on the banks of Quart Pot Creek, the euphonious stream made immortal by the late Brunton Stephens, Australia's Laureate, who resided here for some years. It is within a few miles of the New South Wales border, and about halfway between Warwick (Queensland) and Tenterfield (New South Wales). It is in the heart of the granite country, and the huge boulders lie strewn on the adjacent lands.

It is a clean town with white streets, comfortable residences, and a handsome Post Office with a high tower. There is a Court House and Police Barracks, Hospital, bank (the Royal), four hotels, three churches (Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, and Church of England), School of Arts, one Masonic and two other lodges, office of the Shire Council, whose chairman, J. W. Luke, Esq., acts



PADDOCK SWAMP TIN-DREDGING PLANT.

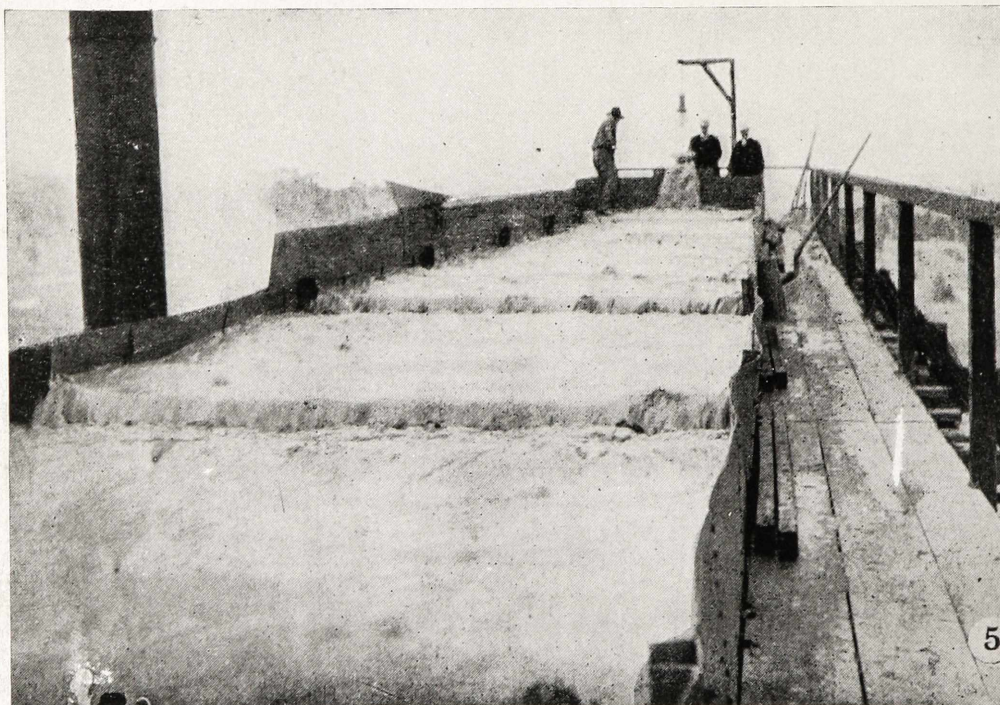
as Mayor, State school with an attendance of 100 pupils, and a Convent school with a similar attendance. There is also a Ladies' College on the hill overlooking the town. State schools are also situated at Wallangarra, Sugar Loaf, and Texas; and Provisional schools at Broadwater, Upper Broadwater, Mallow, Pikedale, Lyra, Paddock Swamp, Glenlyon, Oakey Creek, Lagoon Flat, Silverspur, Smithfield, Beebo, Mount Janet, Ballandean, Glenaplin, Dalveen, and Maryland.

The Border Agricultural, Horticultural, Pastoral, and Mining Society is a flourishing local institution holding annual shows in its grounds of 40 acres with excellent grand stand. There is a good district newspaper—*The Border Post*.

Tin-mining languished for some time after the first great rush, but of late it has revived considerably. Good progress has been made of recent years, chiefly due to the increased price of metals—now experiencing again a temporary drop—and the development of the dredging industry. With regard to the tin-mining industry, it may be said that the day of the individual tin-miner is practically over. He has worked over most of these leads during the last thirty years, but has only been able to work dirt returning a yield of from 14 lb. to 40 lb. of tin per cubic yard, according to market prices. By means of dredging, however, ground to the value of only 1 lb. per yard can be rendered payable. It must be at once apparent that there is an enormous amount of previously worked ground available as remunerative areas. The capital required for an hydraulic sluicing plant is from £3,000 to £5,000. Both these and bucket dredges are in use. The ordinary areas taken

up run from 80 to 100 acres, although in some cases they are considerably larger and again as low as 40 acres. The advent of these dredges has given a new filip to tin-mining around Stanthorpe, and during the last few years about £40,000 has been invested in machinery. There are now nine dredges working in the district. The first started about seven years ago. Each dredge keeps from twenty to twenty-five men in constant work. The life of the average dredged ground or property is usually from eight to ten years.

The Paddock Swamp Tin Dredge, costing £4,000 landed on the ground, has recently started work. The capital of the company is £18,000, in 36,000 shares of 10s. each, of which 6,000 are fully paid up, leaving an available working capital of £15,000. The company has a fifteen years'



RIPPLE RACE WHERE TIN IS SAVED.

lease of 320 acres of freehold, of which 120 acres have been proved to be tin-bearing, and there is also 25 acres of Government land. The wash goes as deep as 25 feet, the average depth being 16 feet. The engine is of 150-h.p., and works a 10-12 centrifugal suction pump, which lifts the material sluiced down by the high pressure of water from the nozzle into the race, where, by gravitation, the tin sinks and is held in the ripples, while the water and lighter material wash away. The pressure of water from the nozzle is 40 lb. to the square inch. The capacity of the dredge is 40 cubic yards of earth per hour, or 1,000 yards per day.

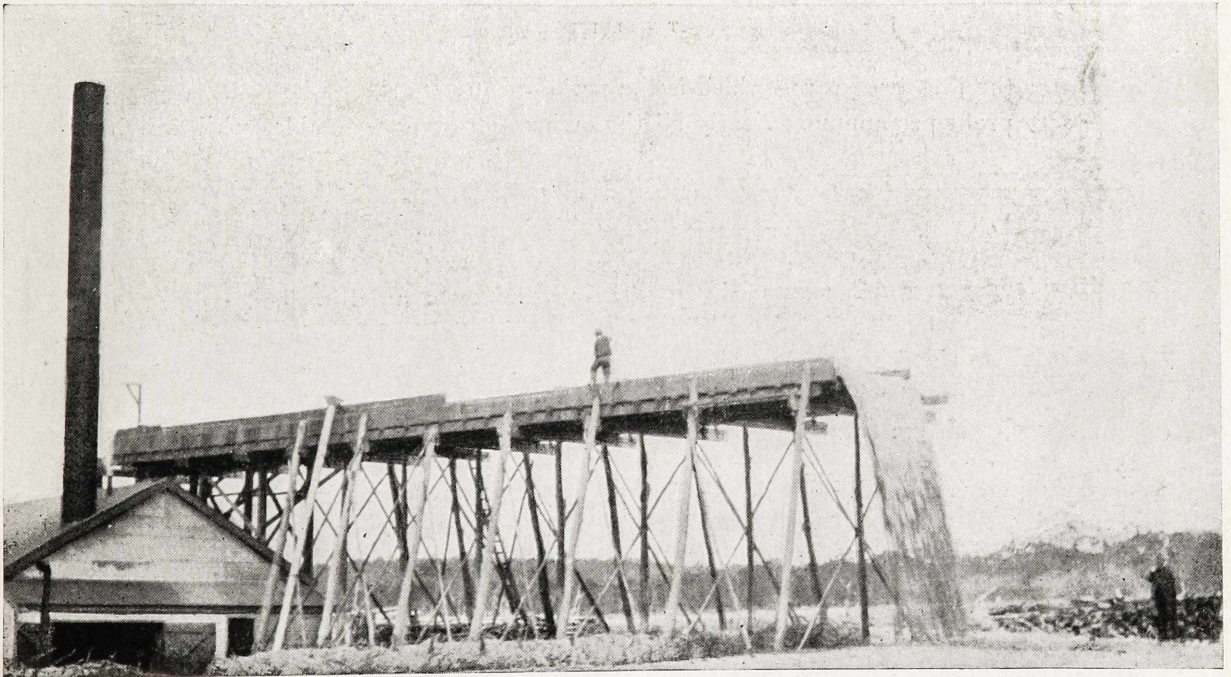
The Rover, at the Four-mile, is a centrifugal sluicing plant, worked by two of Robey's 20 nominal horse-power traction engines. There is no dredge, but the plant can easily be moved from one place to another. The company has 900 acres of ground, and 30 acres have been thoroughly tested, showing wash down to 20 feet. This is estimated to average $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tin to the yard, and the dredge is easily capable of treating 600 yards in the twenty-four hours.

Six tons of tin per month were at time of writing being produced from the Stanthorpe Proprietary (Brisbane Claim), worth £100 per ton—it has since dropped in price—and the dredge wage-sheet was £280 per month.

The Silver Spur Mine (copper, lead, and silver), near Texas, is the largest mining concern in the district. Even in its earlier stages it turned out £50,000 of silver in four years. It is a most prosperous concern with a bright future before it. About 250 men are employed on the property, and the expenses are about £2,500 per month.

The Pikedale Silver and Copper Mine has recently erected new machinery, consisting of magnetic concentrating plant, two calciners, and a reverberatory furnace. Matters are being pushed rapidly ahead, and forty to fifty men are employed. There is a strong lode. The matte—which is the copper and silver ore reduced by smelting after being roasted—from the Silverspur goes about 25 per cent. copper and over 1,000 oz. of silver. The matte from the Pikedale goes 50 per cent. copper and 206 oz. silver. The Sundown Tin and Copper Mine is situated on Ballandean Station, which is the only station between Stanthorpe and the border. Another good mine in the district is the Silver Queen. Total output of all minerals from the Stanthorpe district for 1906 was £70,074.

The fruit-growing industry has assumed large proportions, chiefly along the railway line at Glenaplin, Lyra, and Ballandean, but the orchards extend pretty well from Stanthorpe to the border. There are 492 acres under apples, and it is calculated about 100,000 fruit trees. The soil is principally disintegrated granite, than which nothing can be better for stone fruits. All it wants in the way of manure is a little lime, there being no limestone in the district.



STANTHORPE PROPRIETARY'S (BRISBANE CLAIM) TIN DREDGE.

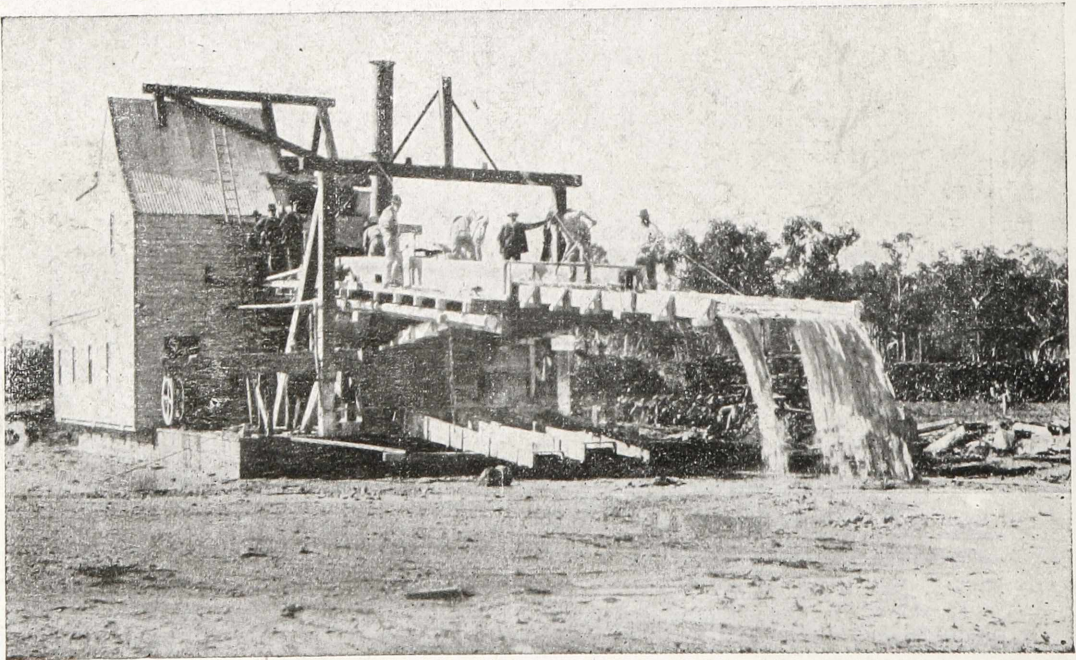
By placing lime on the soil, it disintegrates the felspar from the granite, and makes the very food the plants require. Cooking pears, $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. weight, and cooking apples, 15 inches in circumference, have been produced here, and a large trade is done with the East and North. The district is now recognised as the best part of Queensland for English fruits. All stone fruits, as well as apples, pears, grapes, and vegetables, do splendidly. The orchards vary in size from 15 to 40 acres; the

largest is 45 acres in extent, belonging to Messrs. Smith, of Ballandean, 14 miles from Stanthorpe. It returned a clear profit of £1,400 for 1906. Most of these lands were originally acquired at 2s. 6d.



TIN SLUICING.

per acre. After the first two years—which is the period before bearing—the returns vary from £20 to £30 per acre profit per annum. Nearly all the orchardists grow vegetables whilst their orchards



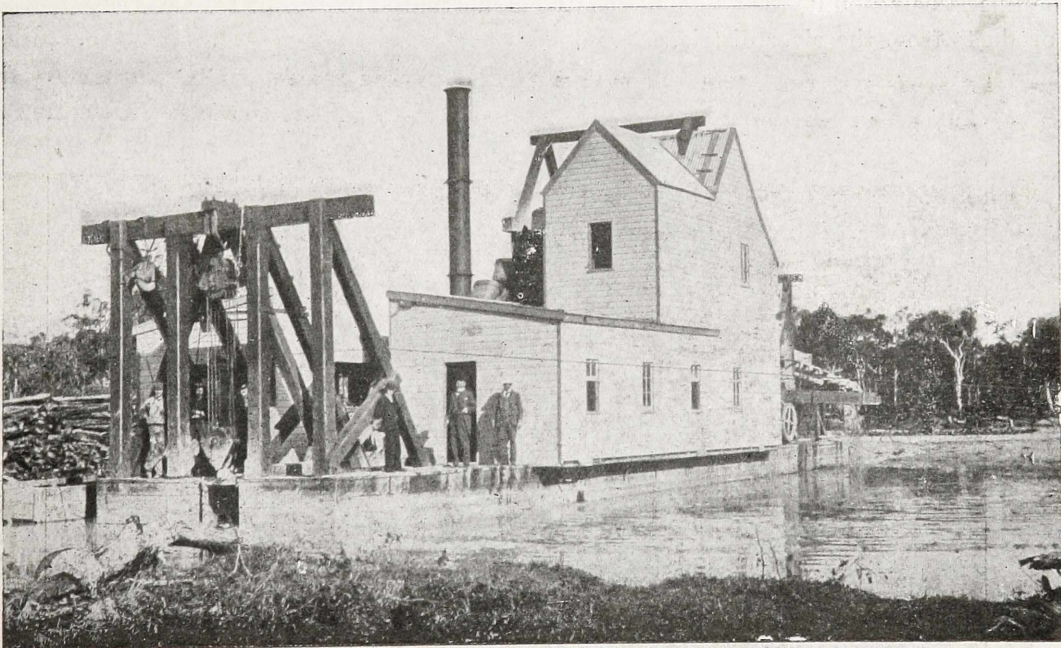
TIN DREDGING.

are growing. Tons of cabbages, tomatoes, melons, pumpkins, potatoes, cauliflowers, and especially onions have been produced. Most of the asparagus for the Brisbane market comes from here;

£30 worth of tomatoes was taken from $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre. Stanthorpe cherries were in the market fourteen days before the New England crop, fetching 17s. 6d. to £1 per case.

Messrs. Read and Farrar have a fine orchard, producing all kinds of fruit, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east of Stanthorpe. The oldest orchard is Mr. Fletcher's, of 35 acres, adjoining Messrs. Smith's, at Ballandean. Further on R. Hoggan, Esq., formerly of the Trigonometrical Survey, has a fine property. This gentleman is a great enthusiast, and practically carries on an experimental farm for the whole district. Another notable orchard is that of Messrs. J. and H. Roessler, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north, and 14 miles from Stanthorpe.

The sheep stations in the Stanthorpe district have long been famed for the fineness of their wool. They lie principally to the westward, where there is a large tract of good grazing country about 12 miles from the town. The principal ones are Nundubbermere, 16 miles south-west (horses and sheep); Pikedale, 21 miles west (sheep and cattle); Pike's Creek (sheep); Glenlyon (sheep and black Angus cattle); Gunyan, Bonsure, and Trigamon, 70 miles south-west (cattle); Terrica, west of Pikedale (sheep); Warroo (sheep and shorthorns); Texas Station (all cattle and tobacco); and Ballandean, south-west (sheep and cattle).



TIN DREDGE, STANTHORPE.

A word must be said for Stanthorpe as a health resort. The air is delicious and invigorating, and, the water being highly charged with mineral, the place can be strongly recommended for invalids, especially consumptives. A private sanatorium has been built about 3 miles from the town. The summer heat is tempered by invariably cool nights. It should become very popular as a pleasure resort if suitable golf links were made.

INGLEWOOD AND TEXAS.

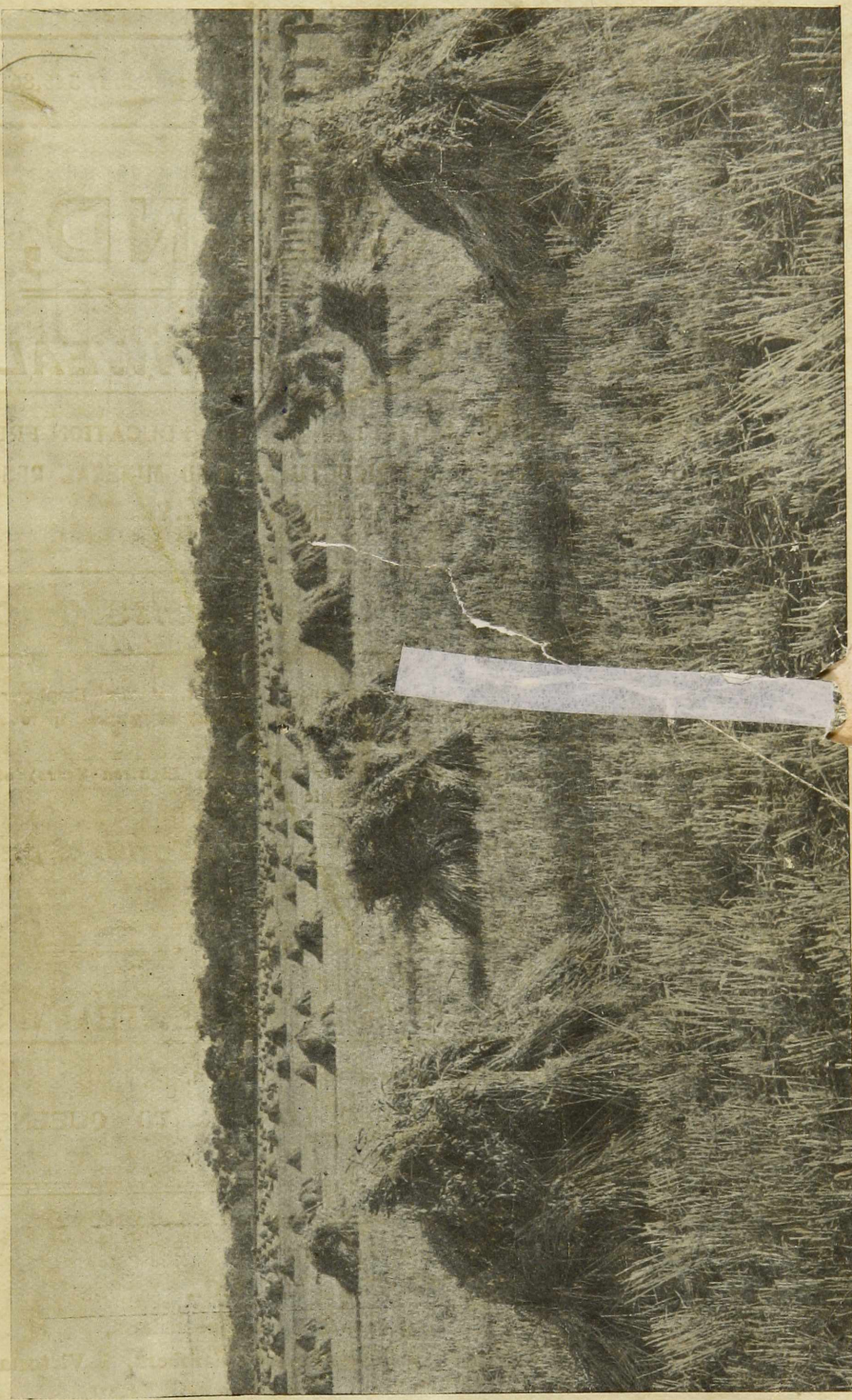
INGLEWOOD stands on the edge of a belt of inferior country stretching backward and eastward in the direction of Warwick, but to the south and west along the track of the railway magnificent rolling downs await the advent of the dairyman and agriculturist. The township, which is the temporary terminus of the Goondiwindi line, is 73 miles from Warwick. On the way the train passes through Thane, a timber, pastoral, and mining centre. The whole distance from Warwick to Goondiwindi is 126 miles, and it is hoped that the line will be completed in another six months. Not so rich as the blacksoil areas of the Darling Downs to the eastward, the country is perhaps better adapted for the production of cereals than the richer lands of the more closely settled areas. A prominent local miller has stated that the finest wheat that his firm had ever handled was grain produced on the Macintyre country, and for quality it ranked second on the lists of wheat produced in Queensland. The country is also suitable for dairying in large areas. Hitherto the district has been devoted almost exclusively to the pastoral industry—to the raising of cattle and sheep; and the high standard of both products from the runs of Whetstone, Canning Creek, Glenelg, Warroo, Texas, and Gunyan is the best advertisement of the success that has attended the pioneer industry that must precede the era of agricultural development and closer settlement.

Texas is situated to the south of Inglewood, and is chiefly devoted to cattle, tobacco, and mining; in fact, Texas contains the best tobacco lands in the State. The country from Laguna to Bonshaw, along the valley of the Severn, is one of the finest districts in Southern Queensland. Now that the line is being built, there should soon be a substantial export of tobacco, wheat, barley, and dairy products from the river districts.



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